General Discussion of the Budget.

President.—The general discussion on the budget by the non-officials may be brought to a close by the end of the forenoon sitting so that the afternoon sitting may be allotted to the official Members to offer their remarks. There are many points on which explanations are wanting.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—According to the Rules only the Finance Member is permitted to answer. Official Members are not permitted to answer.

President.—Am I to understand that official Members have no right to answer?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Rule 48 (2) lays down : that 'the Finance Member shall have a right of reply at the end of the discussion and the President may, if he thinks fit, make any remarks.'

President.—That is as regards the Finance Member only. There is nothing to show that official Members shall not take part in the general discussion. They also come under the terms 'Members of the House.'

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are they criticising the budget, or are they putting more facts?

President.—There they take part in the general discussion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—They are giving more or less a reply to what we have said.

President.—They would not take part in the discussion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—So far as the Provincial Councils and the Legislative Assembly are concerned, they do not do it there. There the Finance Member is to give a reply.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The Rule says that the Finance Member only has the right of reply.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—They can offer their remarks after all the non-official Members have given their remarks on the budget.

President.—It has been the practice here, i. e., official Members are allowed to give some explanations on the budget during the general discussion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We need not consider the practice here. Here a question once allowed will be disallowed; that is the practice here. So practice does not come in.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is not a correct statement, Sir.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is a correct statement. I can challenge the Hon'ble Member for the truth of it.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I can disprove it.

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I may state that a question once admitted and published in the agenda paper is seen disallowed afterwards. The Hon'ble Member for Medicine will ask the Government for the facts and see to it.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, before discussing the budget at length, there is the duty cast upon every right-minded citizen to acknowledge with thanks services rendered by the State to the good and advancement of its people. Services of such a purely beneficial nature are however remarkably wanting in the present administration. Nay, on the other hand, one is even painfully constrained to state that the real cry of the country is one of discontentment and dissatisfaction everywhere. I shall deal at length with this aspect of the administration later on.

Meanwhile let me convey the thanks of the public to our Chief Engineer, the Diwan Peishkar and the Commissioner of Police for the valuable and meritorious services they rendered to the flood-stricken population very recently. The presence of the Chief Engineer in some of those flooded districts even during the dead of night at times and the help he brought to bear at that untimely hour really account for the saving of many a poor life that would have otherwise easily succumbed to the floods. The relief work carried on by the Diwan Peishkar is thankfully acknowledged and greatly appreciated. The Police Commissioner also spared no pains in rendering all possible help to save the situation. While commenting highly their acts of self-sacrifice, we look to you, Sir, to give relief in an increasing measure to those panic-stricken people whose houses and household articles have all been washed away by the recent floods.

Next it is my pleasant duty to assure Prince Rama Varmha that my Constituency stands second to none in according him a right royal welcome. He is the first illustrious example of a Member of the Cochin Royal Family coming down to share the benches of the Cochin Legislative Council, and I feel certain that His princely qualities couplnd with His extremely pleasing manners and broad views would stand to His good stead in the discharge of His duties as an official Member of this House. I dare say He will prove Himself worthy of the responsible career He has been pleased to choose and His close association with the present Government is sure to produce good results. I wish Him, on behalf of my Constituency, a brilliant future!

Sir, having already alluded to the rather strong feeling of resentment felt all over Cochin against your methods of administration, I may state at the very outset that it is not the individual view of one Member or other that the time has come

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to mend matters. Sir, in duty bound, I am reflecting here the views of the public if I make mysef bold to say that your administration to-day is looked upon by the people of Cochin as *arrogant, selfish* and devoid of imagination and broadmindedness. With the several opportunities you have had before you, if you could not make your administration look efficient and praiseworthy in the eyes of the people, why blame them, Sir? You and all of us know that the people of Cochin are not a set of reactionaries disinclined to acknowledge true greatness. You being a son of the soil yourself Sir, you could easily have realised the legitimate aspirations of your own people and worked them to that end. If, on the other hand, people find you less sympathetic than even foreign Diwans, how can they help feeling discontented against your administration?

Well, Sir, they have serious and grave charges against the general administration. Chief and foremost among them is its unpardonably *slow* feature. Time without end the peopte of Cochin have been waiting to sea the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee effected in the course of the year. Promises were honoured in its constant breach and absolutely nothing has been done so far. We are now at the fag end of the year and to us these recommendations of the Committee stand out as *castles built in the air*. Why this inordinate and inexcusable delay? Is this administration meant for the good of the governed?

Again, Sir, there is the widespread complaint that the general administration is to-day moving in a world of *mystery* and that the Government is invariably denying the citizen even the very right to know for himself things that concern him vitally. This *roll of secrecy* is looked upon with serious suspicion by the people. They hold you have no right to continuously keep us *ignorant* of the many details connected with the Cochin harbour and railway schemes. Why selfishly keep this knowledge from us and give room to the fear, that you are barteing away our interests in silence? Whatever may be the principles of diplomacy under cover of which we are denied the knowledge in this matter, it is but right and proper that you tell us where and how we stand. Today we do not know whether we are going to have any share in the Venduruthi reclamations. We hear that 30 lakhs of rupees have been demanded of the Madras Government to advance us as loan and that they have denied it. Again, Sir, we do not know of the extent of territorial jurisdiction to be covered by the Harbour. There is the impression that most probably the frontier part of Ernakulam will have to be given to the British Government. These are things which every citizen has a right

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to know. We expected that, in the course of the President's opening speech, he would let us know something at least about these matters of vital importance to any man in Cochin and unfortunately not a word came from him. Why not inform us where we stand? Why are things done in this way? Yesterday a hope was expressed that hereafter when nomination is to take place to the Conservancy Board a Member of this House may be given a place there. I pray it may be done without fail.

Thirdly I may say there is growing discontentment on account of your step-motherly attitude towards the Council. This step-motherly attitude, taken by the Government so far as the decisions of this House are concerned, is looked down with disgust and scorn by the electorates. Sir, when you were lifted to the exalted position of the Diwan of Cochin and when this *infant* institution was given to your care, we expected that, as a true son of the soil, you would lead us to something progressive, to something in the nature of constitutional reform unlike a foreigner who might not allow us to go further. You had every opportunity also before you to take us into something better. But, unfortunately, instead of leading us to further progress, even that little instalment of power given us by His Higness the Maharaja, you seem to curtail and cut down so far as it is in your power, Sir, to do. As an instance, I may quote the fate of a certain resolution passed by this House. When the resolution connected with the admission of students to the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, was discussed here, the Director of Public Instruction informed the House that he would accept it provided we agreed to the appointment of the committee by the Government, rather than elected by this House. We readily agreed to that course because we found there was nothing wrong in what the Director said. He readily accepted the modified form of the resolution. But unfortunately there comes the paragraph in the Gazette turning down the whole thing, saying Government found no necessity. Why did they then agree in this House to constitute a committee by the Government to sit in judgment over the selection of candidates? Did they then accept it without feeling the necessity. Is want of necessity a new discovery made out by them to throw out the decision of this House? If some new thing had happened, that would have been a good ground. After having made a promise of the kind, I daresay, it will sits on the Government later on to say "well, we do not accept it because no necessity has been made out." Sir, such a retrogressive attitude towards this Council, at a time when the Madras Central Committee has submitted its memorandum demanding complete autonomy, is very much to be deplored, Sir. The little power which is given

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us, why should you further curtail and cut down? This is not my individual opinion. The country at large feels much more than we do, and I may assure you, Sir, that for whatever serious actions we may take during this session we have got the complete support and sympathy of the country behind us. If we do anything this time which may even look childish, it is because we are forced to do so by the electorates which have elected us. You are kind enough to compliment us as infants. "The Council is in its infancy" to use your language Very well, Sir, it is not the period of time through which a Council has run that must be reckoned as a factor for the approbation of the Government to give it further instalments of power. We grant it is only 4 years since the institution has come into existence. The question really to be looked into is whether the House, as it is constituted to-day, contains responsible men with whom the Government may trust another instalment of power. Sir, as an illustration, I may ask you one question. Suppose you, Sir, and the Government Members in a block resign to-morrow and happen to occupy the non-official seats amongst us. Suppose you all illuminate this side of the House with your stores of wisdom. Would you in your turn appreciate the idea of denying another instalment of power, because of the silly reason that the Council is in its infant stage only? If a natural feeling of resentment come into your mind, it is only reasonable it should come into our minds also, no matter whether the Council functioned only for 3 or 4 or 5 years. All that the Government as a responsible body should have looked into is whether we have men amongst us with experience in the different walks of life and in the different Departments of Government. If you find there are such men of wide experience and learning, then the Government have absolutely no right to give us this most ridiculous compliment of "infancy." These are a few grievances which, to my mind, seem to keep the blood boiling in the heart of the country. We, therefore, refuse to co-operate with the general administration unless matters are improved hereafter. The earlier your ways are mended, the better for all parties concerned.

Next, Sir, I come to certain other Departments. So far as the Panchayat Department is concerned, I must say, it has become almost ruinous in its achievements. The Panchayat Department was introduced with the idea of teaching the rudiments of self-Government to the villagers. Instead of teaching them how to do it profitably to themselves, what we find to-day is, the whole administration under the Panchayats is done in a most shameful manner. To begin with, the Superintendent of Agriculture is overtaxed with his agricultural works and he

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never cares a straw to do things properly. He never makes any local inquiries, wherever complaints arise, with regard to Panchayat elections. If I remember right, there have been tons of election complaints brought before him. To-day the Panchayat elections are not properly conducted, and every time a complaint is made, the Superintendent shirked his responsibility by saying that it was none of his business. He left it to the Tahsildar, Village Officers, Menons and Parvathiams. With what result? The Village Officers themselves stand as candidates for elections and get everything done in their own way. The Tahsildars, who always grudge to do anything so far as the Panchayat election is concerned, never care to make proper inquiries to find out whether there is any truth in the complaints made. And most of the Village Panchayats are not functioning properly, because it has become nobody's property. If this Panchayat Department elections are not conducted by the Superintendent himself or by his subordinates who are responsible to him, it is time to stop this Department altogether. Why allow this farce to continue?

Now coming to the roads or such other constructive works done by the Panchayat, if you only roam about the country, you will feel that these works are done in a most disgraceful manner, without proper guidance and instructions. I only wish the Member for P. W. D. had taken back all the roads from the hands of our Panchayats and maintained by him hereafter. The conditions of the Panchayats are deplorable!!!

About the Education Department, I have got one fact to lay stress on. You find, Sir, in the Medical and Engineering Colleges this year, such a good number of our students have been refused admission. There is a committee sitting to select candidates and as soon as a boy from Cochin approached them the first question they put was 'well, where do you come from?' If the answer was 'Cochin', "good-bye, you can go" was the reply. He may be probably a candidate who has passed with distinction, it did not matter. They do not care. The same thing happened with the Engineering College, Guindy. When they were asked for reasons they gave out that Cochin always refused to reserve seats in these two Colleges. There are other States reserving seats. Cannot our Government find way to do the same for our boys?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Has the Member any authority for this statement that seats have been reserved in other States?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Yes, I have.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Government have made inquiries, and I am informed that there are other States which have no reservation of seats.

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Mr. C. J. Mathew—Even granting that there are none, is it reasonable not to take steps to see that a certain number of our students get admitted into the Engineering College and the Medical College at Madras? Our students should be educated technically and we have no such colleges here. With the advent of the Harbour, boys technically educated are sure to find appointments. It is only right and proper for any administration to see that seats are reserved for our boys in technical institutions elsewhere. Our students should not be put to any difficulty to get seats there, I mean, students who really deserve to get educated that way. I want to emphasise this fact, so that the Government may do something hereafter in the way of securing admissions to our students in the Technical Colleges elsewhere.

There is widespread discontentment in the fact that the recognition is denied to new schools starting in the course of the year. The Member for Education always takes up his stand on the ground that a similar institution existing about 5 miles away may not prosper in the same fashion if a new school is started in the neighbourhood. How are you justified in refusing recognition to new schools which really have a good amount of students seeking admission into them? Suppose a student, Sir, who has to walk now 5 or 6 miles distance to get the rudiments of A, B, C, gets a new school within a mile distance, what right have you to force him to walk 5 miles for the reason there is another institution already existing there? Is it you are discouraging secondary education in the State? Is it after making an educational survey of the State, that schools were granted recognition before? If not, your defence does not stand at all.

Sir, a word about the Medical Department. My grievances are local. The Chalakkudi hospital, I may bring to your notice, is probably the biggest in point of attendance among the mofussil hospitals. There are the forests surrounding and the number of sick men coming from these hill areas are abundant. It can stand comparison with the Civil Hospital, Trichur, if not with the General Hospital here. The whole thing there is manned by one Assistant Surgeon only. If he has to go to Ernakulam as a witness, to cite but one instance, there will be none in the place. There will be nobody there to give any immediate medical relief that may be required. I, therefore, most emphatically request the Government that an additional medical hand be given to aid the Assistant Surgeon and to look after his work in his absence.

So far as the Police Department is concerned, Sir, it is very gratifying to note that it is gradually improving under the present Commissioner. Steps are being taken to have a Traffic

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Department in sole charge of the buses and cars plying within the state.

However, I do not for a moment approve of the appointment of one Inspector and one Sub-Inspector only to be in special charge of the traffic regulation. We want more number of men in the Traffic Department, if it is intended to regulate the motor traffic properly hereafter. The accidents are every day growing, and unless you have a Sub-Inspector appointed for every Taluk and an Inspector for each Division, there is very little hope of the Department turning out any real good.

The provision made by the Government, therefore, I don't think, will be sufficient. One Inspector and 2 Sub-Inspectors will not be adequate to meet the needs. It is rather a great mistake to entrust this work in the hands of Head constables. It is strongly reported that they are taking monthly prescribed instalments of tips from bus-owners. They do not do their duty properly. If the idea of the Government is to stamp out that sort of corruption and to regulate traffic properly, the best thing would be to have a bigger staff of Inspectors attached to the Traffic Department. They will see that traffic is properly conducted without being subject to corruption.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—I rise to make a few remarks after comparing our State with that of Mysore. Our revenue comes in round figures to 90 lakhs, in Mysore it comes to Rs.360 lakhs. I give only round figures. In Mysore the total outlay to the end of 1930 on productive works comes to 14¼ crores involving a net liability of 8 crores. The capital outlay for a State having a revenue of Rs. 360 lakhs comes to 92 lakhs of rupees for the current year. Proportion is ¼ (one-fourth). So there is no good of saying and we need not at all have any apprehension in borrowing and making use of that capital in productive works, because the attitude of the Government ought to be not to simply collect revenue and spend the same as we have been doing but to see with eyes open to improve the material prosperity of the State and the subjects of the State. Every Government ought to see how the earnings of the people or the wealth of the land is being drained away by other nations. In this connection every year we get good rains, good seasons and our paddy producing lands yield on an average pompous paddy and all our plantations, arecanut, cocoanut and other plantations, do yield their income in turns. But with all that none of the land-holders neither the jenmies nor the ryots or the tenants grow rich. On the other hand, they are sinking every year. The Government ought to do what a prudent man would do. When we enquire into the reasons we may at once come to see that most of our money that we get from such sources are

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being drained away from our land by the purchase of foodstuffs, raw foodstuffs. Paddy is not sufficient for the consumption of Cochin State and in consequence we import about a lakh of tons every year. One ton may be valued at Rs. 150. So it comes to more than one and a half crores of rupees. That is a drain on the land.

Then under the head of books and stationery. Every year we import a good many books. We spend on education about 13 lakhs of rupees or so and what the Government spends is being made use of to waste the wealth of the subjects by more than double or three times that amount. That is what the Government actually does, and at the same time the Government loses this money and the subjects also lose their money and the product of education is we don't get anything. Because it is an admitted fact that none of our so-called Art students and raw graduates would be able to earn their livelihood. They are left to themselves but for the petty Government jobs they may get.

Then another item is cloths. There was a time when it was considered in England penal to import into England fine laces and other things from India. Then India was considered to be the best producing centre. All these cloths we now import from foreign parts from England and Japan. At the same time we don't care for a moment to manufacture all these articles ourselves. Many of our brethren go without work, and whatever amount we may spend on this score may be given to them by encouraging and purchasing their production. Suppose the Government takes the initiative. They can make use of Cochin-made cloths and other things. Absolutely there is nothing to prevent them from making use of their own cloths and produce. They had no cost whatsoever.

Then another item is machinery, petrol and kerosene oil. When we pass over the railway road from Ernakulam to Trichur, we see very many foreign concerns with big tanks and other things and while we see them we feel some sort of pleasure and it brings to our mind the greatness of such nations. It never attracts the brain of anybody that they once fill these tanks with water like substance and on the other hand, they drain away our land of gold. Suppose. side by side with the present tank, they set up another glass tanks and they fill those tanks with the sale money converted into gold and the whole gold is being stored for one year. Then every passer-by would see that they walk away with so much of gold, and we would be tempted to see we must not allow such sort of nuisance to be done in our land. But nobody sees. It is the poor man who pays him in pies and the merchant in currency notes. As per exchange rules, all

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these go to America in gold and nobody sees all these things. To remedy all these we have sufficient opportunities in our State. I want to draw the attention of the Government to those aspects. I drew the atten tion of the Government to the draw-backs. I shall now formulate how these may be remedied. So I shall once again traverse through those items. So far as the foodstuffs are concerned, my Hon'ble brother Members have already spoken about improved agriculture and irrigation. I would suggest—the suggestion is not of myself, I had the honour of attending a dinner party along with Sir M. Visweswariah, ex-Diwan of Mysore, the veteran statesman and engineer of world fame. That being a dinner party the commonplace topic was one on foodstuffs. He happened to remark that our west coast has plenty of cakes—cocoanut cakes, ground-nut cakes and so many other cakes. All these are being exported and they come out to our own land as nice biscuits and so many other sort of foodstuffs for adults, invalids and infants. We purchase at a very high value these things. We can impart proper technical education instead of the so-called present arts education alone over which we spend so much money. Thereby all these foodstuffs may be analysed and our Arts Colleges can have such departments, side by side in our own colleges. We need not be dependent upon the Madras University for these, we are independent so far as education and other matters are concerned. We can open our State University to suit our conditions. We can have so many food-analysing departments in that. When all these cakes and other things, such as arrow root, മരച്ചീനി I don't now remember the English name for that, rae analysed..

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Tapioca.

Mr.A.S.Harihara Ayyar —Once these exported are from our land, they come in another form. All these may be cleverly analysed and made use of as foodstuffs and the importing of so many tons of grains of paddy may be diminished.

Then about the books and the stationeries. Our ancients were content with cadjan leaves, writing on earth, etc. All these things are being condemned by the present educationists. I don't see the reason why. So far as the Lower Secondary Departments are concerned, many of these books and stationery may be saved. What is the good of changing year after year the text-books? TheText-Book Committee somehow or other is being influenced by some auther or another. One year they say Balasiksha, the same is repeated as Sisupadam. Ist Class or Infant Reader or so and. These are simply manipulations. Every year the poor boys have to spend a lot of money in the purchase of such wastes.What is the Arithmetic that our present Colleges and Secondary Schools teach? Many of our graduates

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are unable to calculate the interest on a single promissory note when the same is handed over to them. We do it by mental calculations. The present graduates begin to scribble on paper. What we do in five or ten seconds, they take more than ten or fifteen minutes. So far as the Lower Secondary Department is concerned, we must be content with mental Arithmetic, so much of stationery and so many bound books can be saved every year. Either slate work or mental work. And after all, what is the thing that is being taught? If a boy is educated in any other technical line for a term of 7 or 10 years, he is sure to earn his livelihood in England or any other independent country. Hereafter passing the School Final, "ചന്തം ഉണ്ണി" in Malayalam, he is a good-for-nothing fellow. These are all facts which should not be concealed. It is these we have to consider. All these would save so much of money to our land. What more in cloths? Under the present system of education we begin to imitate, we begin to have glossy dress and other things. Even the small Lower Secondary boys have begun to dress and copy all fashions. So much of money is being wasted.

Then about petrol and kerosene oil. How this may be remedied? There comes the solution. I had the occasion to go to Mysore recently. When I went to take my electric torch, my son asked me, 'father, what use are you going to make of the same?' I could not understand him, in full, then. As I went to Bangalore and Mysore his statement proved true. You may not have any occasion to make use of the torch. In the room in the privy,in the closets, in the streets, wherever you go, you have got electric lights and what more. I mean the kerosene oil tanks which are seen in all the Malabar Railway Stations in such tall heights and pompous ways are not seen there. So much of money is being saved.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Petrol?

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.— Even for petrol. They mean to diminish the consumption of petrol as well. For the State car, they have attached electric motor and have begun to diminish. For the other cars also they mean supplying electric power. With motors we are able to drive. So the same thing is being done to the cars. So, I say, I took the patience to investigate the whole thing. I was wondering to see what a fall was and the inquisitive nature took me to Sivasamudram. It happened to be worked by Sir K.Seshadri Ayyar. He being a Palghat man and a Brahmin, (*laughter*) I had too much appreciation for him and I wanted to see what work he had done. I state the plain facts, what struck my mind. I cannot conceal anything. Anybody would think that Sivasamudram falls is a perpendicular fall. I also thought like that. It is not a per-

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pendicular fall. It is only a flow of water with an angle of elevation varying from 35 to 50 degrees over a rock. So it is not that water, that flow, that is being made use of. A mile up from that oblique fall, the water is being diverted and as it is led the water rises up a small hill. The water is let down by pipes.

President.—I am sorry you have come very near the time.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—I shall cut short. About 400 feet they develop 45,000 horse power and with that they supply electric power to Kolar gold fields, lighting Bangalore and Mysore. So much of money is being saved like that. 400 feet comes to only the height of 4 cocoanut trees, 4 tall cocoanut trees. So it is not a big fall. In the Sivasamudram fall also, water is not perennial. Once they contracted with the Kolar gold fields to supply power, and if there is any breakage of power for more than half an hour, the Mysore Government was bound to compensate them for the loss. So, Sir M. Visweswarayya had to solve the problem by making the stream perennial. It is one of these reasons for putting once the Kunnambady now the world famed Krishna Ragusagara anicut. One-fourth of the anicut water is being made use of for this purpose.

President.—The time is up.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—With your permission, I shall take some five minutes.

President.—This is the maximum that is allowable. I am sorry I cannot allow you more time.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—All right, I shall take some other opportunity. Anyhow in one minute I shall close it up. In conclusion I draw the attention of this House and the Chief Engineer in particular, that in almost all our State rivers we can develop hydraulic power in a greater or less degree and light the adjacent villages. We can make many of the rivers perennial by putting up several dams over them. The dams would also serve a double purpose by irrigation. Much money of the land may be saved—Government ought not be shy over initial investments. Such works also solve a portion of the unemployment problem. As a caution Government will also see that no portion of the land lying half a mile on either side of the river is assigned to any individual both in plains and hills.

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—Mr. President, Sir, let me at the very outset take this opportunity to congratulate His Highness Rama Varmha Tampuran, the 30th Prince of Cochin, on His well-deserved elevation to the Office of Secretary to the Government.

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Coming now to the budget itself, I find that the Finance Member has presented a very carefully prepared budget which is characterised by the usual policy of caution and safety first which is all good as far as it goes. But the fault of it is that it does not go far enough. I admit that it is a highly commendable policy in an officer who is called upon to administer the finances of a State whose resources are limited. But, nevertheless, I think that, by a wise retrenchment in certain items of expenditure and by tapping new and unexplored sources of revenue, it is possible to prepare a budget which will really conduce to the advancement of the people. And what we, as the representatives of the people, require from the Government is a budget which will really advance the welfare of the people of the State. Examined from this point of view, the budget placed before us is not up to that mark. In my last budget speech I had occasion to remark that a Government can justify its existence only if it identifies itself with the poorest in the land. All our policy should be shaped with this high principle in view.

Let us just look around us and see how other nations are on the march. In America how vigorously does President Hoover enforce the policy of total prohibition! And in England itself we see how the Labour Government has set about the task of ruling the country in a thoroughly business-like manner. As soon as they took over the reins of office, they immediately started measures for the remedy of the growing evil of unemployment. I think it is our duty to profit by such examples and to do something instead of being content to talk about it.

With these prefatory remarks, I would pass on to the Department of Education where I have a few constructive suggestions to make. It is a well-known fact that the women of the Nambudiri caste suffer from many social disabilities. They themselves have begun to feel a burning desire for the betterment of their social condition. I have received many letters and petitions from them requesting me to draw the attention of Government to this matter, and I take this opportunity to do so. As a first step, Government should remove the illiteracy among them by starting schools for them in various centres and by extending to them the same concessions that are now extended to the backward communities.

I also wish to draw the attention of Government to the need for starting cosmopolitan hostels for girls at least at Ernakulam and Trichur on the lines of the Queen Mary's College Hostel of Madras. The educative value of such institutions will be admitted on all hands. I may also mention here that a resolution to this effect was passed in the general assembly of the

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Cochin Women Teacher's Association when I was authorised to bring up that resolution to this House which when I did could not be taken up in this House owing to pressure of work.

In my last budget speech, I called the attention of this House to the need for taking steps to solve the growing problem of unemployment among educated women. This can best be done by throwing open to them Departments other than Education and Medicineand also by appointing them as teachers in the Primary Department of Boys' Schools. I hope Hon'ble Members will agree with me when I say that women by nature are better fitted than men to educate young children. I hope it will not be out of place in this connection if I draw the attention of Government to the urgent need for the re-organisation of the Education Department so as to increase its efficiency and smooth working. The first thing that has to be done for it is the bifurcation of the College and the High School Departments, and secondly, the separation between the women's service and the men's service as in the Madras Presidency. If it is to function effectively, women's education, with all its peculiar problems and difficulties, has to be controlled entirely by women, and it is also advisable to appoint a woman Directress of Education as the Head of the women's branch of the Education Service. I cannot but mention here other schemes of reform also which I have already placed before the House. The minimum pay of teachers should be raised to Rs. 20, which is but a bare living wage under modern conditions. Again, I think it is but the barest justice to ask Government to see that, in any scheme of re-organisation, clerks and teachers of similar qualifications are so placed as to enable them to enjoy similar prospects. I have spoken so much about the reforms in the Education Department, for I consider it to be a Department which requires constant care and vigilance on our part to improve it. It is well for us to remember that any amount of money invested in this Department will bear ample fruit in the years to come. In our sister State of Travancore, the Director of Public Instruction has submitted a scheme of re-organisation which involves an increased expenditure of 6 lakhs from 42 to 48 lakhs of rupees. I wish also to remind the Government that our State owes its premier place among the Native States of India to the high state of advancement of education and that this enviable place can be maintained only by following a progressive and liberal policy in the administration of this Department.

Passing on, then, to the Excise Department, it really pains one to find that Government has not done anything at all to

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carry out its professed policy of total prohibition. I admit that our State cannot go dry in a day. But the pity of it is that we have not taken one step nearer to our cherished goal of total prohibition. When we glance at the income under this heading, it ought to bring home to us the truth that at the back of it all is the growing misery which destroys the peace in many a happy home in our State. Why should we gather such unholy money from the people and spend it on unnecessary purposes? If there was real enlightenment among us, rather than allow this unholy revenue to disgrace the public exchequer, will not the officials at the top be content with less pay and less T. A. and the capitalists among us gladly part with a portion of this accumulated wealth for the benefit of the poor? I know it is a forlorn hope. But so far as I can see, some such measure will have to be adopted, if we are to save our people from the economic ruin to which they are fast heading.

There is another urgent duty on the part of the Government to which I wish to draw their attention. The criminals who are discharged from the prisons after serving various terms of imprisonment are left to the tender mercies of a cruel world who shun them as moral lepers. They are mostly only victims of the vicious economic condition of our society, and it is the duty of the Government to do all in their power to take care of them and to provide them with work. With this end in view a Discharged Prisoner's Aid Society should be started as in British India, and adequate provisions made for teaching these unfortunate men and women useful crafts by which they can earn a living.

It is refreshing to pass from these questions to others where the Government is doing something substantial for the people. The elevation of the Depressed Classes is one such. All honour to the Diwan and the Protector of the Depressed Classes who are really to be congratulated on the excellent work they are doing for the promotion of the welfare of these communities.

It cannot be denied that the budget provides for progress in some directions affecting the welfare of the people, and I congratulate the Finance Member for this. The proposal of the Hydro-Electric Scheme is highly commendable since any amount of money invested in it will be a fruitful source of income in future years.

Let us look round us and really examine what is the condition of the people of our State. The poverty among the masses is steadily increasing. The drink evil spreads among them like a pestilence destroying the happiness of many a home. The evil of unemployment among the so-called educated classes is fast growing to alarming proportions. We see how these

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momentous questions are engaging the very serious attention of linking statesmen in Western Countries which are rich and how vigorously measures are adopted to meet the situation. Before concluding, I would earnestly request our Government to stir themselves betimes and devise schemes to remedy these growing evils in time.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ടി. മാത്യു.—ഈ വഷ്ത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചശേഷം ഒന്നാമതായി ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡെണ്ട രാമവമ്മ തമ്പുരാന്റെ നിയമനത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് പറയുണ്ടായത്.

President.—I never referred to his appointment as Secretary.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ടി. മാത്യു.—സെക്രട്ടെരിയായി നിയമിച്ചതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ, ഈ സഭയിലെ ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെമ്പരായി നിയമിച്ചതിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലൊ. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി മറ്റു നിയമസഭാ മെമ്പർമാർ പറഞ്ഞതിനെ ചൂണ്ടിത ചൂണ്ടണം ചെയ്യാതെ അതിന്റെ മറ്റൊരു ഭാഗത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണു ഞാൻ പറയുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോഴും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ മനസ്സിലാക്കി അപ്രകാരം പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലുള്ള വിശ്വാസം കുറഞ്ഞു കുറഞ്ഞാണ് വരുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങിനെ അനുചിതകരമായ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടുകൂടി രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാനെയും കൂട്ടികെട്ടി ജനങ്ങളുടെ അപ്രീതി സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയാക്കിത്തീർത്തതക്കവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചത് തീരെ നന്നായിട്ടില്ല. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തികളുടെ ഗുണാഗുണങ്ങളെ ചൂണ്ടികാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ചുമതലയിലൊന്നാണ്. ഞങ്ങൾ ആ ചുമതലയെ നിറവേറ്റുമ്പോൾ, ഇന്നു ഒരു കാലത്തു മഹാരാജാവായി വരുവാനിടയുള്ള ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻ സെക്രട്ടെരിയുടെ പ്രവൃത്തികളെപ്പറ്റിയും വിമർശിക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നതാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ചില പ്രവൃത്തികളെപ്പറ്റിയും ആക്ഷേപിക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നാൽ അതൊന്നും ഇനിയൊരു കാലത്തു പകരം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായിപിടിച്ചു വെയ്ക്കുന്നതെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധമശേഷമില്ലാത്ത ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുമായി ഇദ്ദേഹത്തെ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചതു, ഇനിയത്തെ തലമുറയ്ക്കുകൂടി ദോഷകരമായിഭവിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തിയാണ് എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രത്യേകാൽ പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാണ്. അധികനാൾ കഴിഞ്ഞു നിയമസഭ കൂടുമ്പോൾ പ്രധാനകാര്യങ്ങളെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ദിവാൻ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ഒരു പ്രസംഗം ചെയ്യുന്നപതിവുണ്ടു. ഈ പതിവു മൈസൂർ, പുതുക്കോട്ട മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോഴും നടപ്പുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻ

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പ്രസിഡണ്ട് ഇതൊന്നും കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞ ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. ഫിനാൻസ് മെമ്പരെ കുറെ പുകഴ്ത്തുകമാത്രമാണ് അദ്ദേഹം ചെയ്യുവരുന്നത്. ഇതിനുപകരം ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാത്തതായ പല പ്രധാന സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി പറയുവാനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഉദാഹരണമായി ബട്ട്ളർ കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെപ്പറ്റി നമുക്കറിയേണ്ടതായിയാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ ദിവാൻജി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുട്ടില്ല. കൊച്ചി ഹാർബറിനെപറ്റിയും ഒരക്ഷരംപോലും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഈ വക പ്രധാനകാര്യങ്ങളെപറ്റി യാതൊന്നും പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതെ ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെപറ്റി ആവശ്യത്തിലധികം അവസരോചിതമല്ലാതെയും സ്തുതിച്ചുമായി ഈ സഭയിൽവെച്ചു ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നത് തന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കും ഉദ്യോഗനിലക്കും ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലെന്നു അറിയേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. മറവുള്ളവരെ പുകഴ്ത്തി പറഞ്ഞാൽതന്നെയും അവർ പുകഴ്ത്തി സംസാരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിയാണൊ ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ ചിന്തിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഗവൺമെണ്ടു കൊല്ലംതോറും വലിയ കെട്ടിയിരിപ്പു വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി പലപത്രങ്ങളിലും ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതൊന്നും ഈ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപെടുന്നില്ല. ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ വന്നാലും, അതുശെയ്കയ്കുന്നില്ല. കൊല്ലംതോറും ഇങ്ങിനെ കെട്ടിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഫിനാൻസ് മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞ ന്യായങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കി. അതൊന്നും ശരിയാണെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ആ പ്രസ്താവനകളെല്ലാം അർത്ഥശൂന്യങ്ങളായിട്ടുള്ളവയാണ്. ഇംപീരിയൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു നമ്മുടെ കെട്ടിയിരിപ്പു അത്യധികം വർദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുമ്പോൾ അതെല്ലാം അവർക്കേടുന്നതിന്നായി ശ്രമിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ല. രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളെ പിഴിഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നപണം ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കാതെ ഇങ്ങിനെ കൊടുത്തുകൂട്ടുകയത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ കെട്ടിവെക്കുന്നതു ബുദ്ധിയില്ലാത്ത പ്രവൃത്തിയാണ്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു പണം ആവശ്യമുണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ അതു പലവിധത്തിലായി ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു പിരിച്ചെടുക്കാമല്ലൊ. ഇതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള സമർത്ഥന്മാരായ ദിവാൻജിമാരുടെ കാലത്തൊക്കെ അങ്ങിനെയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. അവരൊന്നും ജനങ്ങളുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നു ഞെക്കി പിഴിഞ്ഞ പണം പിരിച്ചെടുത്ത, രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കായി കൂടി അതു ഉപയോഗിക്കാതെ, കെട്ടിവെച്ചു സന്തോഷിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ, നമ്മുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ നയം വളരെ അനാശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇതുമൂലം രാജ്യത്തിൽ അസംതൃപ്തിയും അസന്തുഷ്ടിയും വർദ്ധിച്ചുതന്നെവരുന്നു.

രാജ്യരക്ഷണം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിന്നായിട്ടാണ വേണ്ടതു.

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പ്രസിഡെണ്ട ലിങ്കൺ ഉത്തമഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെപററി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു ഇങ്ങിനെയാണ": "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" എന്നാണ. നമ്മുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ വിവരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു 'Government of the officials, by the officials, for the officials' എന്നുപറയണം(ചിരി).

ഡിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ ഡാക്ടർ വി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്.—ഒഫീഷ്യൽസ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു എവിടെയെങ്കിലും കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ടി. മാത്യു.—ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു മുഴുവനും കേൾക്കാൻ ക്ഷമയില്ലാതെ ചാടികയറിപ്പറയുന്നതെന്തിനാണ? പ്രായം കൂടിവരുന്തോറും ആളുകൾക്കു പാകതയുംകൂടി വരുമെന്നാണ ഞാൻ കരുതിയിരുന്നതു. (ചിരി.) മററു ദിക്കുകളിൽ "ഓഫിസേർസ" ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു അവക്കുള്ളതല്ല. ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടിയുള്ളതാണ. മററു പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ "ഓഫിസേർസ" അവരവക്കു ഒരിക്കൽ കിട്ടിയ സ്ഥാനത്തുതന്നെ എന്നും എപ്പോഴും ഇരിക്കാമെന്നും വിചാരിക്കേണ്ട (ചിരി). ഇംഗ്ലണ്ട", ഫ്രാൻസ", അമേരിക്ക മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ, പ്രധാന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായി ഗണിക്കാവുന്ന മന്ത്രിമാരെ, ഓരൊതിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു മൂലമാണ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതു. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിന്റെ ഫലം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇച്ഛപോലെയായിരിക്കും വരുന്നതു. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിന്റെ ഫലമായിയുണ്ടാകുന്ന മന്ത്രിമാർ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇച്ഛക്കനുസരിച്ചായിരിക്കും രാജ്യഭരണം നടത്തുന്നതു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയും അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുമാണ അവർ പ്രഥമമായി നോക്കുന്നതു. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷയല്ല, തങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷയാണ അധികമായി നോക്കുന്നതു. ഇതിനു പ്രധാനകാരണം ഇന്നത്തെ ഡിവാൻജിതന്നെയാണ. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗുണകരമായി ചിലതെല്ലാം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുമ്പോൾ, അദ്ദേഹം ആവകയൊന്നുമല്ലചെയ്യുന്നതു. വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സംരക്ഷണയാണ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു കായ്മയായിട്ടുള്ളതു". ചെറിയ ശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെയും പൊതുജനങ്ങളെപോലെതന്നെ അദ്ദേഹം മറക്കുന്നു! കഷ്ടം! നമ്മുടെ ദുർഭാഗ്യം!!

ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെപ്പററിമിസ്റ്റർ ഹാരോൾഡ ലാസ്കി "ക്രാറിയൻ" പത്രത്തിന്റെ ഏപ്രിൽ നമ്പരിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെയാണ എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നതു:—

"'"There is a tendency", wrote Rousseau, "for all Government to degenerate" and certainly the absence of effective criticism of their policy is, in the long run, fatal to their tenure of power. For it is a commonplace that Government can only live by their ultimate capacity to satisfy the wills of their constituents. These they can know only as they are made known. But the habit of dictatorship is to penalise all thought taken

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from the ways of which it happens not to approve. It fails as a result adequately to me assure the volume of real approval it has secured. It mistakes the silence it has created for satisfaction it has desired to secure, and in the end this is the certain road to disaster."

ഇന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടുള്ള അതൃപ്തി അധികമധികം പുറത്തുകൊണ്ടുവരാത്തത അവക്കു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിനോടുള്ള അതിരറ സ്നേഹബഹുമാനങ്ങൾമൂലം മാത്രമാണ. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം നന്നാകണം, ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗുണമുണ്ടാകണം എന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നവരാണ ഈ സഭയിലെ ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ. ഞങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെവെച്ചു പാസ്സാക്കുന്ന ബിൽസ്, പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയെല്ലാം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു തള്ളികളയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, ഞങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ ഗുണമുണ്ടാകുന്നതിന്നിടയില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിന്നു പണനഷ്ടമായിരിക്കും അതുമൂലം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത. ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ഗൌനിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ, മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു നിർമ്മിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സഭ ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണല്ലൊ. ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായ ഒരു സഭയെ നിലനിത്തി ബഹുജനങ്ങളുടെ പണത്തെ അനാവശ്യമായി ചിലവഴിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, അതിന്നു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമാൻജി തന്നെയാണ. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആലോചനാപൂർവ്വമല്ലാത്ത പ്രവൃത്തിയാണ ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം വരുത്തിക്കൂട്ടുന്നതു. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ജനങ്ങളോടു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതു ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ. ഈ ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ നടന്ന ലോകമഹായുദ്ധത്തിൽ ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിന്റെ ജയകാരണം അവിടത്തെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണവും അതനുസരിച്ചുള്ള സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുമായിരുന്നു. ജർമ്മനിയുടെ പരാജയത്തിന്നുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണം ഇവയില്ലായ്മയുമായിരുന്നു. നാം ജർമ്മനിയുടെ സ്ഥിതി പകർത്താതെ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിനെപ്പോലെ പ്രശസ്തിയോടുകൂടിയിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഒക്കെ ആഗ്രഹം. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം മറ്റുരാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരു മാതൃകാരാജ്യമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിന്നുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ പരിശ്രമത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ജനങ്ങളോടുകൂടി സഹകരിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ചില പ്രവൃത്തികൾ കാണുമ്പോൾ അവക്കു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സോടതന്നെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലായ്മയുണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അവിടത്തെ ഒരു പ്രത്യേകസ്ഥാപനമായ നിയമസഭയെ ധിക്കരിക്കുന്നതു അവിടത്തോടുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലായ്മയല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറെറന്താണെന്നാണ ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു കുന്നംകുളത്തേക്കു തീവണ്ടി നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന്നായി ആസ്ഥലത്തും അതിന്നടുത്തുമുള്ള നിവാസികൾ ഒരു ഡെപ്യൂട്ടേഷ്യൻമൂലം മഹാരാജാവിനോടു യാചിച്ചപ്പോൾ, "അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ ചെയ്യുതരാമെന്ന" തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു വാഗ്ദാനംചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. മഹാ

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രാജാവിന്റെ വാശ്ചാനം തെരയാണെന്ന ജനങ്ങളും വിശ്വസിച്ചു. പിന്നീടു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ വാശ്ചാനം നിറവേറ്റികൊടുന്നതിന്നായി ദിവാൻജിയോടു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോഴാണ മഹാരാജാവിന്റെ വാശ്ചാനം നിറവേറ്റുന്നതിന്നു ദിവാൻജിയുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു തീച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നറിയുന്നതു. ദിവാൻജിയും ഇനിയും പലതും ആലോചിക്കുവാനുണ്ടത്രെ. ഇദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആലോചന എന്നവസാനിക്കുമെന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ബലഹീനത അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അപ്രാപ്തിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ ഇനി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതു. ഒരു നിയമം നാട്ടിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുമ്പോൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു അതിനെ നടപ്പിലും വരുത്തണം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെങ്കിൽ, അതിനെ പാസ്സാക്കുകതന്നെ അരുതു. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള വെയ്റ്റഡ് ആൻഡ് മെഷർഡ് നിയമംതന്നെ നോക്കുക. അതിന്റെ നടവടിയെക്കുറിച്ചുനോക്കുമ്പോൾ വളരെ പ്രാസകൃഷ്ടൻസ് നടത്തണ്ടതായികാണാം. എന്നാൽ ആ നിയമലംഘനത്തെപ്പറ്റി നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഈ നിയമം മാത്രമല്ല ഇങ്ങിനെ അവഗണിച്ചു കിടക്കുന്നതു.ഇൻഫന്റൈറയിൽ സ്മോക്കിങ്ങ് പാടില്ലെന്നൊരു നിയമമുണ്ടു്. ഈ നിയമം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു അനുസരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ? അനുസരിക്കാത്തവരെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു പ്രാസികൃട്ട ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടൊ? ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടൊ? നടപ്പിൽകൊണ്ടുവരാതെ എന്തിന്നാണ ഈ മാതിരി നിയമങ്ങൾ പാസ്സാക്കുന്നതു? അവയെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ആ വക നിയമങ്ങളെ നിയമപട്ടികയിൽനിന്നു നീക്കട്ടെ. നിയമമുണ്ടാക്കി അതു ലംഘിക്കാനനുവദിക്കുന്നതുമൂലം പല ദോഷങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിന്നിടയുണ്ടു. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു നിയമങ്ങൾ ഏതും യാതൊരു ദോഷവും കൂടാതെ ലംഘിക്കാമെന്നുവന്നാൽ പിന്നെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ആവശ്യമെന്താണ"?

ഇനി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഹ്രസ്വവീക്ഷണത്തെപ്പറ്റിരണ്ടുവാക്കുപറയട്ടെ. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെമുന്നിട്ടു പണം കെട്ടിവെക്കുക എന്ന നയംതന്നെ ഇതിന്നുമതിയായ ഉദാഹരണമാകുന്നു. മേലുണ്ടാകുവാൻ പോകുന്ന തലമുറക്കുവേണ്ടി നാം ഇപ്പോൾത്തന്നെ അനവധി പണം കെട്ടിവെക്കുന്നതു തീരെയുക്തമല്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യമുള്ള സംഖ്യ മാത്രമെ പിരിക്കാവൂ. പണം സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്ന കാര്യമാണെങ്കിൽ അവരവരുടെ പണം ജനങ്ങൾക്കുതന്നെ സൂക്ഷിക്കാനറിയാം. പണം ആവശ്യമുള്ളപ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ "ടാക്സ" ചെയ്യുന്നതിന്നു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു അധികാരവുമുണ്ടെന്നു മുൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുവല്ലൊ. പിന്നെന്തിന്നാണ ജനങ്ങളെ ഇപ്പോൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തി വേണ്ടതിലധികം പണം പിടിച്ചുപറിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതു?

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കർഷകന്മാരെയാണ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് അധികം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിയ്ക്കുന്നത്. അവർ എത്രനാൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നയം തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ അനുവദിയ്ക്കുമെന്നു ഗാന്ധിമായി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ട കാലമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷയാണ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ധർമ്മം. ഈ തത്വം നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു മറന്നാണപ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നത്. ചിലനല്ലകാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ ചേർക്കയും നിയമസഭ അതു പാസ്സാക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതൊന്നും വേണ്ടതരത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കാതെ, ആ സംഖ്യയെല്ലാം ഖജനാവിൽ കെട്ടിവെയ്ക്കുന്നതിനായി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നു. താണ ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി അനുവദിച്ച സംഖ്യ അതിനുപയോഗിച്ചില്ല. ഇവരെ രക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ മുഖ്യധർമ്മമാണ. രക്ഷിക്കുന്നവരെ ദണ്ഡിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ഉത്തമ പ്രവൃത്തിയല്ല.

ഇറിഗേഷൻ, അതായതു ജലസേചനം. എന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ ഇനിമാല്പം പറയാനുള്ളതു. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ എൺപതു ശതമാനം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഉപജീവനമാർഗ്ഗമായ കൃഷിയുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിനായി നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സഹായങ്ങൾ വിരലിലെണ്ണാം. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു "സ്റ്റീംസ്" വല്ലതെയുണ്ടു". പക്ഷെ പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ യാതൊന്നുമില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകുപ്പു തെലക്ഷ്യത്തിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ ഉറപ്പിക്കയാണ ഈ വഴിയിലേക്കായി നീക്കിവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു. എന്നാൽ ഈ സംഖ്യയിൽ വലിയൊരുഭാഗം കൂടി ചിലവാക്കാതെ എല്ലാം ഖജനാവിലെ കെട്ടിയിരിപ്പു കൂട്ടുന്നതിനായി ഉപയോഗിക്കയാണ ചെയ്തതെന്നറിയുമ്പോൾ, ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സ്ഥിതി നന്നാക്കുന്നതിനായി എത്ര ഉത്സാഹമുണ്ടെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കാം. ഇന്ത്യയിൽ മാത്രമല്ല, പാശ്ചാത്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽകൂടി കൃഷി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി അത്യുത്സാഹം ചെയ്യുവരുന്നകാലത്തു നമ്മുടെ കൃഷിയെ പോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി വേണ്ട പണം ചിലവാടാതെ മൂടിപ്പിടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. ജനരക്ഷയുടെ മാന്യതയെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നുവൊ, ആ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഭയഭക്തിവിശ്വാസമുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. ഫ്രന്റ്യൂ ലൈഫ്ഹൈദരബാദ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെ കാണുന്നതായി ഫ്രന്റ്ലൈൻ ജൂലായി ഫ്രാൻസിലെ 'ഹിന്ദു'പത്രത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"The Administration Report of H. H. the Nizam's Government for the year 1926—27 published to-day mentions that ordinary service receipts amounted to 755 lakhs and expenditure to 618 lakhs. The Government spent 23 lakhs on ordinary irrigation works."

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മൈസൂരിലെ വരവുചിലവു നോക്കിയാൽ അവിടെയും ഇതു പോലെ ഒരു നല്ല തുക ഈ ആവശ്യത്തിനു ചിലവിടുന്നുണ്ടു. നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ഈ ആവശ്യത്തിനു എത്ര ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു? ഒന്നുമില്ലെന്നുതന്നെ പറയാം. ഒട്ടാകെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഗുണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാതെയിരുന്നാൽ നാട്ടിൽ നിശ്ചയമായും വിപ്ലവംതന്നെയുണ്ടായിത്തീരും. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഹ്രസ്വവീക്ഷണം മൂലം ഇതിനു ഇടയാക്കരുതെന്നാണ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടുള്ള വിനയമായ അപേക്ഷ. ഫ്രാൻസ് മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങൾ കൈത്തൊഴിൽ രാജ്യങ്ങളാണെങ്കിലും അവിടങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിക്കു പ്രൊത്സാഹനം പലതും പ്രത്യേകമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. കൃഷിരാജ്യമായ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു കൃഷിക്കാരെ എന്തും അധികം പ്രൊത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണു. ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽ കൃഷിയുള്ള പ്രാധാന്യതയെപറ്റി ഒരു പ്രൻഞ്ച് മന്ത്രി പറയുന്നതു പ്രത്യേകം അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്".

President.—I noted the time at the commencement. It was at 1-5. I think you can conclude with that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—You said that I began at 1-5, and besides there were a few interruptions.

President—We do not measure all that in discussion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Just two minutes more, Sir, to finish.

President.—Then go on.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—"England will fall because she deliberately sacrificed her agriculture in favour of her coal mines" എന്നാണ്.

ഇനി നമ്മുടെ നിയമസഭയെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടുവാക്കുമാത്രം. ഇതൊരു പ്രയോജനമില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥാപനമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ മുൻപ്രസ്ഥാവിച്ച ചിലസംഗതികളിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ. ഫ്രന്റ് ഫെബ്രുവരി 8 -ാംനു-യിലത്തെ 'സ്പെക്ടേറ്റർ ഇന്ത്യ'യിൽ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി വിസ്തരിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഇപ്പോൾ നിയമസഭയുടെ സ്ഥിതി അതിലും വളരെ അധികം പരിതാപകരമായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. 'സ്പെക്ടേറ്റർ ഇന്ത്യ'യിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു ഇതാണ.

"Of late grave dissatisfaction has been felt by the popular members with the working of the constitution on account of the various restrictions placed in the way of the Council functioning on parliamentary lines. The rules of business need to be liberalised considerably, so as to allow free ventilation and discussion of public matters of importance. The system of succession to the throne in Cochin is such that normally it is not possible for the State to get a young Ruler full of energy and enthusiasm for modern ideas of constitutional Government. It is all the more necessary, therefore, for the rapid progress of the State along up to date lines that a strong parliamentary systems

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of Government should be established and the people entrusted with responsibility. Let us hope that the thoughtful speeches which the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri delivered sometime ago at Ernakulam on the future of the Indian States will inspire the Cochin Darbar to make a move in the matter."

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. മുഹമ്മദ് സീതി.—ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ അയവ്യയക്കണക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് സാമാജികന്മാരിൽ പലരുടേയും വിലയേറിയ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ കേട്ടു. അതിൽ പറയേണ്ടതായ മിക്കവാറും കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഓരോ മെമ്പറും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. മെമ്പർമാർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ പ്രധാനമായി കാണുന്നത് അസംതൃപ്തിയെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും പ്രത്യേകം തെറ്റിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ജനപ്രതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്നവർ ഇവിടെവന്നു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ പ്രമാണിച്ച് സംസാരിക്കുന്നതു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് അംഗങ്ങളെ വ്യക്തിപരമായി ആക്ഷേപിക്കുകയാണെന്നു വ്യാഖ്യാനിക്കുന്നതു കഷ്ടമായ കഷ്ടതരംതന്നെ. സാമാജികന്മാർ ഇങ്ങിനെ സംസാരിക്കുന്നതു് അവരുടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധമില്ലായ്മകൊണ്ടല്ല, പിന്നെയോ അവരുടെ അസംതൃപ്തിയുടെ ഫലമാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇവരെയും കൊണ്ടാസിലിനോട് അനുവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നയം തീരെ ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലായിരുന്നു. അതു് മാറേണ്ട സമയം തീരെ അതിക്രമിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു".

ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് എന്താണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്? ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ പ്രധാനമായ പല അപേക്ഷകളേയും ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. നിയമംകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള അധികാരത്തെ അവർക്കവകവച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടു് മുതലായ പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽജനപ്രതിനിധിസഭകൾക്ക അധികാരംലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് അധികവും നിയമങ്ങളാൽ മൂലമല്ല, ചട്ടങ്ങളാൽ വഴിയായിട്ടാണ്. എന്തിനാണ് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക അധികാരങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു എന്നാലോചിച്ചാൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ സ്വാധീനശക്തിയെത്തന്നെ ബലപ്പെടുത്തുവാനാണെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുക. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് സകല എടപാടുകളിലും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളെ വിശ്വസിച്ചു് അവരോടു സഹകരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെയാണ് ആ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി അത്ഭുതകരമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

ബ്രിട്ടീഷു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടുമായിട്ടുള്ള എടപാടുകളിൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ അവകാശങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നു ജനപ്രതിനിധികളെപ്പോലെ തന്നെ നമ്മുടെ രേണ കൂടാക്കൂട്ടർക്കും താല്പര്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. എന്നാൽ അവർക്ക് പല വിഷമങ്ങളും നേരിടുകയും. ആവക സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ അവരുടെ വാദങ്ങൾക്കു വിജയമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായത്തിന്റെ സഹായംകൂടി വേണ്ടുവോളമാണ്. എന്നാൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ കാര്യമറിയാതെ അവർക്ക് എങ്ങിനെ അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടാകും? ഈ വക വി-

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ഷയങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കു കൂടി ഒന്നും പറവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് അവശ്യവേണ്ട വിവരങ്ങൾ അറിവു കൊടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടുസംഗതികളെ രഹസ്യമാക്കി വെക്കുമ്പോൾ ഓരോ ശ്രുതികൾ പൊങ്ങുകയും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ആശങ്കകൾ വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. എറണാകുളവും കൊച്ചിയും ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നൊരു സംസാരം പൊങ്ങുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇതു പരമാർത്ഥമാണെന്നോ അല്ലെന്നോ പറവാൻ എനിക്കുതന്നെ ധൈര്യമില്ല. ഈവക സംഗതികളുടെ പരമാർത്ഥം ജനങ്ങളെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു ദോഷവുമില്ല. ഏതെങ്കിലും സംഗതി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തികൂടെന്നു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ആജ്ഞാപിക്കുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അവസ്ഥതന്നെ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനും ജനങ്ങളെ ധരിപ്പിക്കാമല്ലൊ.

നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവൺമെണ്ടും തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധത്തെയുംമറ്റും സംബന്ധിച്ചു് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയ ബട്ട്ലർ കമ്മിറ്റിക്കു നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ചില നിവേദനങ്ങൾ സമർപ്പിക്കയുണ്ടായല്ലൊ. എന്നാൽ ആ നിവേദനങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിയപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളോടു യാതൊന്നും ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ചോദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ടെന്നു അവരെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുമില്ല. ഇതുകൊണ്ടെല്ലാം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പല അകാരണമായ ആശങ്കകളും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല.

നിയമസഭക്കു അധികാരം കൂട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ശക്തി കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുമെന്നാണൊ സംശയിക്കുന്നതു്? ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല. മെമ്പർമാർ അഭിപ്രായം പറയുവാനുള്ള ശക്തി ഒരുപക്ഷെ ചിലപ്പോൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശക്തിയേക്കുമൊ എന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ശങ്കിച്ചേക്കാം. ഓരോ രാജ്യക്കാരുടെ പൂർവ്വചരിത്രങ്ങൾ നോക്കിയാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അധികാരം സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ഗുണഫലങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകും. മതസംബന്ധമായ യുദ്ധങ്ങളും അസമാധാനവും അസംതൃപ്തിയുംകൊണ്ട അസ്വസ്ഥമായിരുന്ന കാലങ്ങളിൽപോലും ജനങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യഭരണത്തെ സമർപ്പിച്ചിരുന്ന ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടു് ആ അസമാധാനകാലത്തെ ദുഷ്ഫലങ്ങൾക്കിരയാകാതെതന്നെ കഴിഞ്ഞു. അന്നത്തേതിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും പരിഷ്കാരവും എത്രയധികം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാലമാണു് ഈ ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടു്! ഈ കാലത്തു ജനപ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന പ്രതിനിധികൾക്കു തൊഴുവമേറിയ പൊതുക്കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ പറവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങളും അധികാരവും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു കൊടുക്കുകയും ആ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് സ്വീകരിക്കുകയും ആണു് വേണ്ടതു്.

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ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പാസ്സാക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ന്യായം പറഞ്ഞു കൊണ്ടാണല്ലൊ അവയെ തള്ളിക്കളയാറു പതിവു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു ഇങ്ങിനെയല്ല ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു്. കുറച്ചുവല്ലതും വിഷമമുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങളായാലും അവയെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തി കാണിക്കുകയാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു്. അതിലുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാനെങ്കിലും അതു ഉപകരിക്കും. എന്നാൽ ഒരുപക്ഷെ അത്തരം പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ പിന്നീട അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയുമില്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെ വിശ്വാസംമൂലം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു സിദ്ധിക്കുന്ന ലാഭമാണു് ആ മാതിരി പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിനാലുണ്ടാകുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തെക്കാൾ വലുതു്. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടും ജനങ്ങളും തമ്മിലുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട സ്നേഹബന്ധത്തെ നിലനിർത്തുവാൻ ഒരു നല്ല മാർഗ്ഗവും ഇതുതന്നെയാണു്.

തിരുവിതാംകൂർ നിയമസഭയിൽ പാസ്സായ ഒരു പ്രമേയവും അവിടത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് തള്ളിക്കളഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് ആ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു വളരെ അഭിമാനത്തിനു കാരണമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി അതിവിഷയത്തിൽ ഏറവും പരിതാപകരമായിട്ടാണു് കലാശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നുപറയാതെ തരമില്ല നമ്മുടെ നിയമസഭക്കു ലഭിച്ച അധികാരങ്ങൾതന്നെ വേണ്ടുവോളമില്ല. അങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കെ ഇവിടെ പാസ്സാകുന്ന പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുവന്നാൽ അതു കഷ്ടമല്ലെ? ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് വളരെ അസംതൃപ്തി ജനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനുള്ള പ്രതിവിധിയായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ജനപ്രതിനിധികളെ സമാധാനപ്പെടുത്തണം. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അനാവശ്യമായ രാഗ്യം കാണിക്കരുതു്. ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുമായി ഒരു കൂടിയാലോചന നടത്തുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇനിയൊട്ടും വൈകിച്ചുകൂടാത്തതാണു്.

ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകകളുടെ കൂടുതൽ കുറവുകൾ കൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തെ നിർണ്ണയിക്കുവാൻ കഴികയില്ല. ക്ഷേമത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു എന്തു പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു് എന്നാണു് നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. ജനങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുന്ന കരം അവർക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാംവണ്ണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ എന്നാണു് നോക്കേണ്ടതു്.

നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ ധനാഭിവൃദ്ധി വക്കീലന്മാരുടെയോ ഡാക്ടർമാരുടേയോ കയ്യിലല്ലാ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. രാജ്യത്തെ കൃഷി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചാൽമാത്രമെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിനു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു കാര്യമായി വല്ലതും ചെയ്യുവെന്നു വിചാരിപ്പാൻ തരമുള്ളു. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ പ്രതിദിനം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ജനാവലിക്കു ഉപജീവനമാർഗ്ഗമുണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ രാജ്യത്തെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിക്കണം.

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എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിക്കുന്ന മാന്യന്റെ സ്വഭാവഗുണമാലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനെപ്പറ്റി പരുഷമായി യാതൊന്നും പറയുവാൻ തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും പരമാർത്ഥം പറകയാണെങ്കിൽ—അതുകൂടാതെ തരവുമില്ലല്ലൊ—ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു് തുലോം നിരുപയോഗമാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു യാതൊരു മടിയുമില്ല. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടോടുകൂടി ഒരു പഞ്ചായത്തും കൂട്ടികെട്ടിയിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനെക്കുറിച്ചും ആക്ഷേപമല്ലാതെ കേൾക്കുന്നില്ല. ഏതായാലും ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ഒരു സംഗതിയെങ്കിലും ചെയ്താൽ കൊള്ളാം. അതു് മറ്റൊന്നുമല്ല. ഈ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ട ജീവിച്ചിരിപ്പുണ്ടെന്നെങ്കിലും നാട്ടിൽ പരക്കെ അറിയുവാൻ വല്ല ഏർപ്പാടും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—സർ, പതിവുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു വരവു ചിലവു കണക്കു തയ്യാറാക്കിവെച്ചു് നമ്മുടെ ധനകാര്യ സാമാജികൻ തൃപ്തിയടഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി പല വിമർശനങ്ങളും ഇവിടെ നടന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ (Administration Report) നിയമസഭകൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രയോജനത്തെ വളരെ കാര്യമായി വാഴ്ത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. സാമാജികന്മാരുടെ പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തിന്റെ ഗുരുലഘുതകളും നമുക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചു. ഇനി ആ സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയുന്നതു് ചർവ്വിതചർവ്വണമാകുമെങ്കിലും വിഷയത്തിന്റെ ഗൌരവമോർത്തു ചില സംഗതികൾകൂടി പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. നിയമസഭ രാജഭണ്ഡാഗാരത്തിന്റെ ഘനം കുറക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു വഴിമാത്രമല്ലാതെ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും രാജ്യത്തിനും പൊതുവെ വലിയ ഉപകാരമാകുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളും വിദ്യാസമ്പന്നന്മാരും ഒരുപോലെ ധരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. നിയമസഭ വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഉപകാരപ്രദമായ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമായി പരിണമിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ-രാജ്യത്തിലെ പണം ദുർവ്യയം ചെയ്യപ്പെടാതിരിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ-ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് നിയമസഭാനിവേദനങ്ങളോടനുവർത്തിക്കുന്ന നയം തീരെ മാറേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. നിയമസഭയുടെ ഐകകണ്ഠ്യേനയുള്ള തീരുമാനത്തെ പോലും നിഷ്കരുണം അഥവാ ധിക്കാരപൂർവ്വം അവഗണിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും നിയമസഭയോടതന്നെ അവജ്ഞയോടുകൂടിയാണ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ പെരുമാറ്റമെന്നും ന്യായമായ ഒരാക്ഷേപം മെമ്പർമാർക്കു മാത്രമല്ല പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കുമുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനെ ന്യായമായവിധം പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് ഉത്സാഹിക്കുന്നില്ല. തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർമാർ പൊതുജനങ്ങളോടു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ളവരാകയാൽ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിനെപ്പോലെ നിരുത്തരവാദമായ സംഗതികളിൽ പങ്കു കൊള്ളുക ശരിയല്ലായ്കയാൽ ഒന്നുകിൽ ഇതു് നേരെയാ

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ക്കുക അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുക (mend it or end it) എന്നു വളരെ വ്യസനത്തോടുകൂടി പറയേണ്ട സ്ഥിതിയിലിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ഞങ്ങളുടെ നിവേദനങ്ങളെ എത്രകണ്ടു ബഹുമാനിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു് ഈ പ്രാവശ്യത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റും നല്ലവണ്ണം വിളിച്ചുപറയുന്നുണ്ടു്. മെമ്പർമാർ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പൊതുവേയും അവരവർ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന നിയോജക മണ്ഡലങ്ങളുടെയും ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ചു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള മിതമായ നിവേദനങ്ങൾ പോലും വനരോദനങ്ങളായി കലാശിക്കുമ്പോൾ പ്രതിഫലേച്ഛ കൂടാതെ പൊതുജനക്ഷേമത്തെ മാത്രം മുൻനിറുത്തി ഇവിടെ വരുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ അനാരോഗ്യ പ്രവൃത്തികളിൽ മനോവേദനയും വെറുപ്പുമുണ്ടാകുന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ കുറ്റക്കാരല്ലല്ലോ. രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തെ മുൻനിറുത്തിയാണല്ലോ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടുകളുടെ വ്യാപാരം നിയന്ത്രിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതു്. രാജ്യക്ഷേമം എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ഏതാനും ചില വ്യക്തികളുടെയൊ സമുദായങ്ങളുടെയൊ ക്ഷേമം മാത്രമാകാൻ തരമില്ല. യഥാർത്ഥമായ രാജ്യഭരണം ഭൂരിപക്ഷ ഭൂരിസുഖമാണെന്നുള്ള തത്വത്തെ ആരും എതിർക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ആഹാരമില്ലാതെയും ആരോഗ്യം സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെയും ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽ മുഴുകിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആരെങ്കിലും ചിന്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ? തൊഴിലില്ലാതെയും തൊഴിലെടുത്താൽതന്നെയും ആഹാരത്തിനുള്ള വക കിട്ടാതെയും കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന എത്ര ലക്ഷം സാധുക്കളാണു് നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലുള്ളതു്? അതുകൊണ്ടു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ളവരും ഇല്ലാത്തവരുമായ തൊഴിലില്ലാത്തവരുടെ കായ്ക്കളനേഷിച്ചു പ്രായോഗികമായ പദ്ധതികൾ നിർണ്ണയിച്ചു വേണ്ടതെല്ലാം ഉടനെ ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിനു സന്മനസ്സുണ്ടാകണം. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സിദ്ധിച്ചവരുടെയിടയിൽ കാണുന്ന തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയും അസംതൃപ്തിയും ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ ദോഷം കൊണ്ടുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു് പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷി, വ്യവസായം, കൈത്തൊഴിൽ മുതലായവ പഠിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ തക്കവണ്ണം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ പദ്ധതി പരിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതാണു.

ഈ നിയമസഭയ്ക്കു രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഒട്ടാകെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധിമല്ലായ്കയാൽ അക്കാര്യത്തിലും ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഉടനെ പതിയേണ്ടതാണു: എഴുത്തും വായനയും അറിയാവുന്ന സകലമാനപേർക്കും വോട്ടവകാശം നല്കുവാൻ തല്ക്കാലം തരമില്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നികുതിയോഗ്യത കുറച്ചു സമ്മതിദായകന്മാരെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ മുന്നണിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്നവെന്നു പെരുമ്പറയടിക്കുന്ന ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് മടിക്കയില്ലെന്നു് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ട്ര നികുതി പിരിവു ക്ര, ഡ, ക്ര००ക. യാണു. ഈ കരം കൊടുക്കുന്നവരിൽതന്നെ അധികം പേർക്കും

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വോട്ടവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നു് തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ആകെയുള്ള വരവിൽ നാലിൽ ഒന്നു തന്നെയും സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നാണ കിട്ടുന്നതെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കത്തക്കതാണ.

മദ്യപാന നിരോധ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് പറയുന്നതൊന്നു, പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതു് മറെറാരു വിധത്തിൽ! എന്നാൽ ശരിയായ മദ്യപാന നിരോധനം വരത്തക്ക വിധം വേണ്ടതെല്ലാം പ്രവർത്തിക്കയാണു് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ ധർമ്മമെന്നു് ഇനിയും മനസ്സിലാക്കാത്തതു് കഷ്ടമാണ.

സ്പെഷ്യൽ ഫിനാൻസു കമ്മിററി റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്മേലുള്ള ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും പുറത്തായിട്ടില്ലാത്തതു് ആക്ഷേപാർഹമാണ. ഫ ൦ ർ -ലെ ബഡ്ജററിനെ തുടർന്നു് ഈ ബഡ്ജററിലും "ഒരു തുക" കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്തൊരു ജാലവിദ്യയാണെന്നു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അരപട്ടിണിക്കാരായ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടൊപ്പം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരും ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ തരവിനെ അക്ഷമയോടെ കാത്തിരിക്കയാണ.

സർ, ഇനി ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച രണ്ടു വാക്കു കൂടി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ആ അനാഥകുട്ടിയുടെ അഥവാ തള്ളയുടെ മാറിൽനിന്നു പിടിച്ചു മാററിനിർത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന ആ ശിശുവിന്റെ ഭയനീയാവസ്ഥ അതിന്റെ ചിറമ്മയായ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു് അസ്ഥാനത്താകയില്ലെന്നു് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. കൊച്ചി ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് ഈ താല്പര്യത്തിനോടു അനുവർത്തിക്കുന്ന നയം ഞങ്ങളെ വല്ലാതെ വ്യസനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷമയുടെ ആഴം കാണാറായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു് വിനയപൂർവ്വം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പണമില്ലെന്നു് സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞു് ഞങ്ങളുടെ അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിക്കപ്പെടാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. നിങ്ങൾക്കു ചുമക്കുവാൻ വഹിയാത്ത ഭാരമാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ അതിന്റെ പാട്ടിനു വിടേക്കുവെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. നിങ്ങളുടെ കൂട്ടുകാരും ചതുർവ്വിധ വിഭവങ്ങളോടു കൂടി കഴിയുകയും നിങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷണയിൽ ഇരിക്കാനുള്ള ഭാഗ്യമോ നിർഭാഗ്യമോ ഉണ്ടായ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ പകുതി പട്ടിണിയിലും കീറത്തുണി ചുററിയും കഴിയുന്നതു നിങ്ങൾക്കു അഭിമാനകരമാണോ? ഇതു ഞങ്ങളെ എത്ര വേദനിപ്പിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു വിഭവത്തിന്റെ മുകളിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന നിങ്ങൾക്കറിയാമോ? ഇതു മാത്രമോ, വേണ്ട സംരക്ഷണകളും സഹായങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പകരം അന്യായമായി അക്രമമായി ഈ പിച്ചച്ചട്ടിയിൽ നിന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പോത്തി എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. തിരുവഞ്ചിക്കുളം കനാൽ പിരിവിൽ നിന്നു ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു മ,൦൦൦ക. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ശരിയായി അഴിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു സ്പെഷ്യൽ ഫിനാൻസ്സ് കമ്മിററി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു ഫ ൦ ൭ -ലും

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൫,൦൦൦-ൽ നിന്നു ൬,൦൦൦ തള്ളി ൧,൦൦൦ മേ കൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളുവെന്നു രേഖിക്കുന്നു. സ്റ്റെയിറ്റിനെ സേവിച്ചു വാർദ്ധക്യം വരുമ്പോൾ—പെൻഷ്യൻ പറ്റാറാവുമ്പോൾ—ചിലരെ ഇങ്ങോട്ടയച്ചു ഈ ശോഷിച്ച ഭണ്ഡാഗാരത്തിൽ നിന്നു കൂടുതൽ രമ്പളവും പിന്നീടു പെൻഷ്യനും കൊടുപ്പിക്കുന്നു. അഹോ! നിങ്ങളെ ഏല്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ട്രസ്റ്റിനെ നിങ്ങൾ ഏതു വിധം നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നു! മൂന്നു മാസം മാത്രം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനും അവിടുന്നു പെൻഷ്യൻ കൊടുപ്പിക്കുന്നു. മുകുന്ദപുരം താലൂക്കിൽ വേല ചെയ്യുന്ന അമീനദാക്കും രൂപായിമാക്കും കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ നിന്നു രമ്പളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു വിധിക്കാൻ തക്കവണ്ണം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ എന്തപരാധം ചെയ്തുവെന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ നിന്നു കണക്കു പറഞ്ഞു വാങ്ങി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന നിങ്ങൾകൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനുള്ള ന്യായമായഓഹരി Intertportal Trade Convention പ്രകാരമുള്ളതു കൊടുക്കണ്ടായെന്നു വെച്ചതു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിന്റെ അശക്തിയും അനാഥസ്ഥിതിയും ഓർത്തിട്ടല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറെറന്തുകൊണ്ടാണു്? കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ട്രഷറിതന്നെഒരു Cochin Treasury ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. നിയമനങ്ങൾക്കു് മുമ്പു് ചീഫിന്റെ അനുഗ്രഹം വാങ്ങുകയെന്ന മര്യാദ പോയി നിയമിച്ചറിയിക്കുക എന്നായി. ഇങ്ങിനെ പലതും ചെയ്യുന്ന നിങ്ങൾ എന്തിനു ഒരു പ്രത്യേക കണക്കു് വെക്കുന്നുവെന്നാണു് ഞങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു് യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ കൊച്ചിയുടെ ഒരവിഭാജ്യഭാഗമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ താലൂക്കിനോടു കാണിക്കുന്ന നയം മാറ്റി ഇതര താലൂക്കുകളെ പോലെ വിചാരിക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു എത്ര കെഞ്ചി അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടും ഫലമില്ലായ്കയാൽ പരമാധികാരത്തെ ശരണം പ്രാപിച്ചു നിവൃത്തി സമ്പാദിക്കുവാൻ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർക്കാർ മുതിരുമെങ്കിൽ അവരോടു പരിഭവിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലല്ലൊ. അവരെ അതിനു നിർബ്ബന്ധിതരാക്കി. തീക്കുരുതെന്നാണ എന്റെ അപേക്ഷ. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു കല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അപ്രധാനമായ സ്ഥാനം ആക്ഷേപാർഹമാണെന്നും പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ മുൻസിഫ്—മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടു, റജിസ്ട്രാർ, ഓവർസിയർ, സബ്ബിൻസ്പെക്ടർ, അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സബ്ജൻ മുതലായവക്കു സ്റ്റെയിറ്റു വക പല വില്ലേജുകളിലെയും ജോലികൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ടെങ്കിലും രമ്പളം മുഴുവനും കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് ന്യായം. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു സ്റ്റെയിറ്റു രമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനോടു ഓഹരി വാങ്ങുന്നില്ലെന്നായിരിക്കാം സമാധാനം. സംരക്ഷണാവശ്യത്തിലേക്കു് പ്രതിവർഷം ൩,൫൩൦ രൂപ. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ തരുന്നതു തോക്കും വാളുമായി പട്ടാളത്തെ നിർത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന വകക്കാണെന്നും നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞേക്കും ഈദൃശസമാധാനങ്ങൾ നീതീകരിക്കത്തക്കതാണോ എന്നു വളരെ സംശയമാണു്.

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കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലും, എടവിലങ്ങും, ചേന്ദമംഗലംഎന്നി വിടങ്ങളിലും റോഡില്ല, തോടില്ല, പാലമില്ല. ഉള്ളവ തന്നെ അനാശാസ്യമായ നിലയിൽ കിടക്കുന്നു. പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർക്ക വേണ്ടത്ര പണമനുവദിക്കായ്കയാൽ അവയും വളരെ കഷ്ടതകളനുഭവിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതികാര്യം കൌൺസിലിന്റേയും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റേയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ ഞാൻ പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഈ വിഷയകമായി ഇനി പറയുവാനുള്ളത എന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ ആലോചനക്കെടുക്കുമ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം.

ചേന്ദമംഗലം പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു ഫെബ്രുവരി മാസത്തിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞതാണ്. ഫെ ാ മാസം കഴിഞ്ഞതിനു ശേഷം മാണ് അതു സ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തിയതു്. അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനെ ഇനിയും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണറിവു്. പഞ്ചായത്തുഭരണം തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നു പറയേണ്ടി വന്നതിൽ വിഷമിക്കുന്നു.

കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലെ അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്ക പോലും പണമില്ലെന്നു പറയുന്ന ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികൾക്ക കൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെ contribution-നോ loan ഓ-കൊടുത്തു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനെ സഹായിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ രഹസ്യം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികനില നന്നാകുന്നതുവരെ—അഥവാനന്നാക്കുന്നതുവരെ—മേൽപറഞ്ഞ വിധം വേണ്ടസഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തു അവിടുത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ ഉടനെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

The House rose for lunch at 2 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെകഥയും വളരെ അത്ഭുതകരംതന്നെ. ഇങ്ങിനെയൊരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു് ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിപോലും അറിയാത്ത അനേകം കൃഷിക്കാർ എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലുണ്ടു്. വളരെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയിച്ചതായൊ demonstration നടത്തിയൊ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിലെന്നായി അവിടെ യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. ഒരു കൃഷി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ആവശ്യവും ഉദ്ദേശവും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിക്കാർ മാമൂലനുസരിച്ചുള്ള വളമാണ് ചെയ്തുവരുന്നതു്. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലും പരിസരങ്ങളിലും പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളതു് തെങ്ങിൻ കൃഷിയാണു്. പ്രയത്നത്തിന്റെ ചിലവും തെങ്ങിൽ നിന്നുണ്ടാകുന്ന ആദായവും കൂടി തുലനംചെയ്തു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ നിസ്സാരമായ ചിലവുമാത്രമെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുള്ളു. ഒന്നാം തരത്തിലുള്ള തെങ്ങുകളെന്നു കണക്കാക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കകൊണ്ടു് കരം കൂടുതൽതന്നെ കൊടുത്തു് ജനങ്ങൾ വിഷമിക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഇതൊന്നും അറിയുന്നേയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ ഒരു കൃഷി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ തസ്തികക്കു് അ

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വശ്യമില്ല. ആവകക്കായി പ്രതിവർഷം ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്ന സംഖ്യ-ൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് സൗകര്യത്തിനായി ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ നന്നു.

പബ്ലിക്ക് വർക്ക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ നടത്തുന്ന പണികൾക്കു supervision allowance എന്ന പേരിൽ ഒരു സംഖ്യ ശമ്പളമെണ്ടു എടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. സ്റ്റെയിറിന്റെ പലവില്ലേജുകളേയും കൂടി സേവിക്കുന്ന ഓവർസിയർക്കു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനെകൊണ്ടു് ശമ്പളം കൊടുപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതും വലിയൊരനീതിയാണു്.

ലോകമലേശ്വരം drainage canal—നു ൨,൫൦൦ക. ഇതു ബഡ്ജറിലും വകകണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. അത്യാവശ്യവും അടിയന്തരവുമായ പണികൾ നടത്തുവാൻ പണമില്ലെന്നു പറയുന്ന ശമ്പളമെണ്ടു് അപ്രധാനമായ ഈ പണിക്കു് വകകണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് ശമ്പളമെണ്ടിന്റെ അനാസ്ഥക്കു് ഒരുത്തമോദാഹരണമാണു്. ഈ ൨,൫൦൦ രൂ. അഴീക്കോടു—കാരറോഡിന്റെ ഫ ഫ ൦ ൫ -ലെ പണിക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ബ്ലാങ്ങാച്ചാൽ—അറപ്പതോടുപണിക്കായി ഫ,൦൦൦ രൂ. മാത്രം allot ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും മതിയാകാത്തതാണു്. ഒരു കൊല്ലക്കാലം മുറവിളി കൂട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള ഈ സംഗതിയെ കുറിച്ചു് ഇനിയൊന്നും പറയുവാൻ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

ഒരു മുസ്ലീം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ നിയമിച്ചു കിട്ടണമെന്നു മുസ്ലീം സമുദായം മുറവിളി കൂട്ടിതുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു ഏറെകാലമായി, ഈ വിഷയകമായി എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മുസ്ലീം മെമ്പർ ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും കൌൺസിൽ അതു അംഗീകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ധാരാളം മുസ്ലീം സ്കൂളുകളും മുസ്ലീം വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളും ഉണ്ടായതിന്നുശേഷം ഇങ്ങിനെയൊരു നിയമനം നടത്താമെന്നാണു് ശമ്പളമെണ്ടു പറയുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയൊരു സ്ഥിതി സമുദായത്തിനുണ്ടായാൽ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടക്കു് വലിയ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. മുസ്ലീം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ നിയമനംകൊണ്ടേ മുസ്ലീം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടാകുകയുള്ളുവെന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ അനുഭവം നമ്മെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഉടനെ ഒരു മുസ്ലീം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഇനിയും ധാരാളം പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. എന്നുപറഞ്ഞാലും ഈ ശമ്പളമെണ്ടിനു പറയത്തക്ക ഒരു ചലനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നില്ല. എന്റെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളേയും അപേക്ഷകളേയും ക്ഷമാപൂർവ്വം ആലോചിച്ചു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ സന്മനസ്സുണ്ടാകണമെന്നു അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഈ പ്രസംഗത്തെ ഉപസംഹരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I am really grieved to find that some of the non-official Members of this House are under the impression that the Government are not taking them into their confidence, and are also not respecting their opinions but are often flouting them. With that impression they have allowed themselves to be carried away from their usual self-restraint and calm judgment. I made an investigation as to whether there is any real foundation for such an impression being created in their minds, and I have to confess that I was not able to find the existence of any such. Now it appears to me that the whole thing is the outcome of misunderstandings and misapprehensions. The two matters on which the Hon'ble Members lay stress as pointing to the want of confidence on the part of the Government in them are (1) the omission to bring to their notice the nature of the statement submitted by the Durbar before the Butler Committee and (2) the failure of the Government to keep this House in touch with the proceedings connected with the Harbour and Railway works. With regard to the first, namely, the omission to give information to this House of the nature of the statement given before the Butler Committee, I find that there was no request made by this House to know the nature of the statement submitted. The matter was of a confidential nature, and to disclose it even unasked was not considered by the Government to be necessary. With regard to the other matter, I may, say for the information of the House, that it was engaging the attention of the Government as to whether they should not have some consultation with at least some of the chosen representatives of this Council, if not the whole House, as to the working of the Harbour and the Railway schemes. It is a matter prohibited from discussion in the Council. Still, as the Government feel they would be very stronger, would be better equipped with materials for discussion of these matters with the Imperial Government, if they have the assistance in the shape of advice from a body of non-officials representative of this House, they may assure the House that steps will be taken to remove the obstacles, if any, in the way of consultation with such a body and that they would try to profit themselves by such consultation. (*Hear, hear.*) The House may rest assured that there was no deliberate omission on the part of the Government in not keeping them informed of these matters. With these assurances I suppose you will all be satisfied that the Government have not been neglecting your rights and privileges.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Without interrupting, Sir, may I know whether the European Chamber of Commerce is not fully conversant with the affairs in Cochin?

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The European Chamber of Commerce have representatives in the Conservancy Board. They must be aware of things that take place in that Board.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—All these were confidential so far as we were concerned. It was not confidential so far as they were concerned.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—There has been no deliberate omission.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I sympathise with the Government.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—So far with regard to these two matters. I don't think any other matter was referred to specifically.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Is the Butler Committee report kept confidential at this stage?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I don't think any further answer is required in view of the assurance given. I don't think I am under cross-examination. I am only giving an assurance to this House as to what things will be done in the future so that the dignity of this House, its rights or claims, whatever they may be, will be preserved.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—This House has no rights.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We say we are even prepared to go to the extent of taking steps to get your valuable advice in the matter.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Are you stating that on behalf of the Government?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I never said that there would be discussion of these matters in the Council. An informal body selected from among yourselves may be taken, into confidence and their advice may be taken, if that is possible, if there is no objection standing in our way which we could not possibly surmount. Our assurances must be qualified because you know our powers are limited and so are your rights.

Proceeding next to the other impression, namely, that the Government are not respecting the opinions of the Council as they ought to do. The grounds on which the impression is said to have been created are three in number. Firstly certain cuts made by the House were restored by the Diwan under the powers given by the Regulation, secondly, certain resolutions passed by the House were not accepted by the Government, and thirdly, some questions sent in by members were not admitted.

With regard to the first matter, that is, about the restoration of cuts made, on examining the previous records, I find that there have been very few instances of that sort—only three

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or four. Of these the most prominent is the cut in respect of the grant of the demand that was made for the acquisition of a certain site in Ernakulam for extending the premises of the General Hospital.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What about an equal demand of Rs. 20,000 for pay wards? It was restored, and we had to give up the other Rs. 40,000.

Deputy President.—There was no restoration.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Something more than that. The cut was accepted, and the pay ward was brought into existence, and another demand was made here.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In one budget that was cut off.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I am not for discussing these things. I am only explaining. There may be omissions. Perhaps I may not have known the existence of such a cut.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—We are giving only information.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Thanks for the information. It is quite welcome. Of these the most prominent is the amount of Rs. 20,000 relating to the demand for the acquisition of the site required for extending the Hospital premises. This item was restored not by the permanent Diwan but by Mr. Damodara Menon.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What does it matter?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You have not heard me through. I pray, you may have patience. This sort of impatience creates a lot of misunderstanding. Mr. Damodara Menon, it was, who restored this grant. You wanted to know what difference does it make? The argument on your side was that the permanent Diwan is standing in the way of all your just aspirations and aims, that he was jealous of your powers and that he does not allow you to grow. With regard to Mr. Damodara Menon, you were all unanimous, you all agreed unanimously in saying, that he was very sympathetic towards you and always encouraged your aspirations and aims. When that Diwan restores a grant which you refuse, what is the inference to be drawn from it?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—To err is human.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You may have erred in refusing that grant and Mr. Damodara Menon, in all his wisdom, may have restored it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Not at all. He was forced to do it.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You are not entitled to make such remarks. You are adding a slur to Mr. Damodara Menon's name. After you have said that he was honest, straightforward, of an independent character and able to stand on his

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own legs, it is uncharitable to say that he was forced to do it. On the contrary, the proper construction to be put on his action is that he was satisfied that the cut was not proper and that, in the interests of good Government, he restored it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Mr. Damodara Menon is not present.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I am only placing before you one view of the matter. You may accept it or you may not accept it. So much with regard to that cut. The other substantial cut relates to the demand for Rs. 5,000 relating to the construction of a music hall in the Girls' High School.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That related to bell metals.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That is all right.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I have just to rely upon information in these matters because I was not present myself. I was told that there was difference of opinion among the non-officials of this House, and the cut was carried by a small majority. That shows that there was a large volume of opinion in favour of its propriety, and would you blame a Government if it honestly thought that that grant has to be restored in the interests of good Government? I ask you, Hon'ble Members, why you could not take a more charitable view of things. Why do you attribute motives? Why do you think that the Government had any bad motive in restoring these grants? They may have honestly thought it was necessary. They may have honestly blundered. But that is no reason to say that your opinions were deliberately flouted, that they were deliberately set aside. Honest mistakes are likely to be committed even by bigger men.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If it is otherwise?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—There are only two other items, but they are too insignificant to notice.

I then pass on to the resolutions rejected. Among the resolutions passed by this House, some were accepted, some were rejected, while others are still under consideration.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Some were accepted and rejected.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—There may be such instances also, but I am not certain. Subsequent reasons may have turned up for not accepting them. It is quite possible. There is nothing strange in it, and I don't see why a thing which was accepted should not be rejected afterwards if their exist proper reasons for doing so. With regard to resolutions rejected, they were only generally referred to by the Hon'ble Members. Here also I ask you, gentlemen, why you should not take a charitable view. What motive have the Government in rejecting them? Do the Government gain anything by flouting your

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opinion? On the contrary, they incur your displeasure by doing so and with it your philippics against them. Is it a pleasant thing to hear so many nice things said about us? Certainly not. We would try to avoid hearing such complimentary remarks made by you rather than reject your resolutions. So, you may consider that we have acted with an honest purpose. These resolutions appeared to us to be not acceptable from our point of view. You can say everything you have to say. You can urge all your strong points. We will also say what we have to say and that in a most friendly spirit. We have a common object—to serve our country faithfully.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Only your point of view prevails. That is the trouble.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—It is an accident. Who knows that your turn may not come?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is what we want.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I never said that your claims were disallowed or that they will not be granted. I did not mean that. They may come at the proper time. As matters stand, you have to take a charitable view of things, and not consider that everything was done with a bad motive.

Then, with regard to the questions. Speaking of them I don't want to be offensive. Some of you at least will have noticed that questions are sometimes put which none of you would allow even though they come from a party friend. If those questions are rejected, would you say that the Government acted improperly? It will not be proper for me to quote instances of such questions. There are several conditions which a question has to satisfy under the Rules. Before, therefore, we can say that any was rejected improperly, we have to examine all the questions, and the reasons which induced the Government to reject them. Unless we do so, we cannot say that any questions were rejected without reasons.

With regard to the answers given, you say that some are incomplete. It may be due to many causes. None of us want to suppress any information because we have nothing to suppress. When the question does not cover all the points, information on points which you think will be covered by the question will not naturally be had. Putting supplementary questions do not improve matters. We may not be supplied with the necessary materials to answer them on the spot. You can repeat the question and we will then answer.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is very bad.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Sometimes a question is so put as to provoke opposition. I have seen instances like that.

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It is the way in which a question is put that creates opposition, and sometimes there is also another thing. You, gentlemen, will not misunderstand me when I say what it is. In some questions there is a lot of insinuation.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Against whom, please?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Against the person who has to answer the question.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is it a personal question or a Government question?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—It ought to be a Government question. You treat it as a personal question.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Those questions ought to be rejected under the Rules.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I have been telling you that some questions have been rejected for that reason.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have no complaints for such rejections.

Mr. T M. Krishna Menon.—Such questions are sometimes asked, and when you do so you make one mistake, and that is, you assume that the officer has done things with a motive and that with a bad motive

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We ask only Government and not the officers in any way.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—That is what you ought to do. My own view is that.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Answers are given on behalf of the Government.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I know the technical rule. Yet have you not often felt that you are carrying on a tug-of-war with a particular officer?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is your authority for that? You are treating us with insult.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I don't follow you.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Treat us properly and we will treat you properly. Don't treat us with insult.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You come in the midst of an argument,..

Dr. A. R. Menon.— What is the use of saying 'insinuation'?

Deputy President.—What did he say? He explains. He is giving reasons.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We are nobody here. What is the use of wasting time?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.— If this Hon'ble Member had been here from the beginning, he would not have had occa-

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sion for this outburst. I began with an apology. I said in the beginning that I should not be misunderstood, and had the Hon'ble Member heard it, probably he would not have said like this.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—For four years I have been hearing.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You don't wait to hear me. Have the patience to understand what I am saying. I say that I began by saying that the whole thing is the result of certain misapprehensions and misunderstandings. Misunderstandings are created in this way, rightly or wrongly.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—On a point of order. The Hon'ble Member is out of time.

Deputy President.—Mr. Kunhi Moideen was speaking.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—We are at 3-30. The other Hon'ble Member was speaking for five minutes.

Deputy President.—You don't want to be convinced?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— This will not carry conviction.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—We don't grudge in giving time. You may have the whole day. If you don't finish, so much the better. The others will have no chance.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.— I was trying to convince this House.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—You can go on till the end of the day.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The day is set apart for them.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I shall close.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You proceed.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.— My object is to convince you, gentlemen. No insult was intended. In spite of that, you insist on saying that you were insulted.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Certainly we won't.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I plead helplessness in the matter. We can only say what we mean and what we intend doing. The one thing that seems to have provoked many of you, gentlemen, seems to be the use of the expression "infant stage" when speaking of a resolution that has been rejected."

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Oh, no.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—It was referred to by many, and it was characterised as an insult cast on the Members of this Council.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I shall reply to-morrow, Sir. To-morrow is the time for General Administration. After publishing such statements in the Gazette, what is the use of apologising?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Even here, you misunderstand.

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Dr. A.R. Menon.—After insinuating against us, after calling usbabies and infants, you apologise.

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.— These are legitimate expressions. I am explaining things.

Dr. A.R. Menon.—After proclaiming to the whole of the Cochin State, after calling us infants, what is the use of explaining now after insulting us openly in the Government Gazette?

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.—It was not an apology that I was offering to this House. What I said was that it was never meant to be an insult.

Mr. C.J. Mathew.—That is bad language.

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.—That language is not capable of importing any offensive meaning. When we used that language, we did not mean to imply that the Members constituting this Council are infants. I cannot take the liberties, which you, gentlemen, have taken. I shall have to be guarded.

Dr. A.G. Menon.—We know we have also to be guarded.

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.— I cannot take as much liberty.

Mr. A.B. Salem.—Why not you have the fullest liberty?

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.—I feel otherwise. My object is to convince.

Dr. A.G. Menon.—Thank you.

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.—It does not serve my purpose to make any criticism upon what you say or do. Some of the Hon'ble Members took objection to my addressing the House direct. It was for convenience sake, that I adopted that procedure. Infant stage means the first stage of the existence of this corporate body which is a growing one. We thought its first stages may be properly called the infant stage. When we speak of any other institution, we generally say that it is in its infant stage, mature stage or some other stage. This is a figurative language and was never meant to be insinuating.

Mr. A.B. Salem.—These apologies are to us a sting. We are already pained and there is another sting. Much better not to refer to it.

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.—I generally take care in choosing my language. If I have gone wrong, I shall correct. I do not know what the Hon'ble Member means by saying that what I say contains a sting.

Deputy President.—You can go on.

Mr. T.M. Krishna Menon.—The House shall not be misled into believing that my words were meant to convey a sting.

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Mr. C. J. Mathew.—No sting.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If the Hon'ble Member is trying to justify the language that has been used by the Diwan in the Gazette, then I say it is a sting. Because we have already heard that. The wound is there, and you are again pricking the same wound.

Mr. T M.. Krishna Menon.—That is an uncompromising attitude which is not very commendable in any Hon'ble Member of this House.

These are the general criticisms made and I have tried to give explanations upon these. I am sure the Hon'ble Members will be satisfied to a very great extent to-day and most completely to-morrow when they rise refreshed after a good sleep. There remain only the criticisms on the budget. So far as my Department is concerned much has not been said ; there were only one or two observations. One Member said that distribution of land should not be so made as to make the rich man richer. I accept that principle and shall try to follow it as far as I can. Another Member complained that *kanam* lands are assessed at a higher rate. He said that they are charged at Rs. 2—8—0 while similar lands in other parts are charged only at as. 4 per acre. I do not think that this calls for any explanation.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai—Sir, the Diwan Peishkar has tried to explain certain misapprehensions which are in the minds of Members on the opposite side regarding the attitude of the Government in regard to certain important matters, and I do not think it would serve any useful purpose if I go over the same ground. He referred to matters connected with the Harbour, the Railways and the Indian States Committee, and he tried to make it clear that, as far as Government was concerned, there was no deliberate intention of hiding anything from the responsible representatives in this House. Of course, our Government is under certain obligations, which may not be quite clear to Members on the other side, and, therefore, it was that the Diwan Peishkar tried to explain that, if Government did not resort to publicity, it was not because they did not desire to take this House into their confidence, but it was due to restrictions over which they had no control. So far as their intentions are concerned, Government have absolutely no desire to keep anything from the elected Members of this House, and, as the Diwan Peishkar said, now that the Government knows that there has been this misapprehension in the minds of Members of this House, the Government is prepared to go to the length of taking a certain number of Members to be chosen by this

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House, so that all these details might be placed before them and through them before the general public of the State. And as regards other things also—for instance, another matter that was dwelt upon frequently in this House—the burden of complaint, as it were, was the treatment accorded to the non-official side in regard to very many resolutions passed by this House. Even here, I think, the Diwan Peishkar had made the position of the Government clear. Government, as we are now constituted, have to carry on the administration under the orders of His Highness. So that, we have got to take things as they are, and Members on the other side have to put themselves in the place of Government. When resolutions passed by this House have to be set aside or modified by Government, they do it with very great reluctance, but they are driven to do it by their sense of responsibility. And I feel sure that, if Members on the other side would try to put themselves in the place of Government, they would take a much more sympathetic and charitable attitude. But it is human nature to feel displeasure in situations like these. At the same time, with the exercise of a little more sympathy and charity, I think matters could be smoothly managed.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sorrow, not pleasure. Rather sorrow.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What about those that were carried and accepted ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Even then I say that Government like other human beings live to learn. After they have reached a conclusion, developments may take place. Other aspects that were not thought of in this House may present themselves to Government, and, therefore, Government may have to change their views and sometimes undo what in haste they agreed to do. Even there, I think, they may be viewed with a certain amount of charity. They may not want to flout this House, show any disregard or act in defiance. It may be nothing of the sort. It might simply be that, under the circumstances, Government had, with great reluctance, to assume a change of attitude.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Can you mention anything Sir, that has substantially been done during the last five years on account of the decisions of this Council?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—So far as my Department is concerned, there was a large number of resolutions, and my Department gets a larger share of attention than any other Department in the State. But in one way I welcome it. It some times

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gives one sorrow and sometimes concern. Even when criticisms are unwarranted and one-sided, there is ample ground for satisfaction in the fact that educational matters are receiving attention in this House, since, for the well-being of the State, there is nothing so vitally important as education. If I did not entertain that conviction, I should not stand here as I do to-day. If there is anything that will conduce to the lasting good of the subjects of this State, I should put down education as the first thing, because it is there that we are building up the future citizens of the State. Therefore, any observations that come from sincerity of purpose or motive and from a desire to bring about improvement, even though they might be tinged with misconceptions and hasty judgment, they ought to be welcomed by those who are interested in improving the conditions of administration. Well, I was on the point of answering the Member who asked "can you point out anything substantial done in carrying out the decisions of this House." Well, I would like to cite some instances connected with my Department. I have noted a number of resolutions passed by this House in connection with education. I shall read out a few of them. There is the resolution for the introduction of spinning in schools. Well, that is a resolution that we accepted and which we are honestly trying to carry out. And then there is another resolution that temperance shoud be given a place in the curriculum of studies in schools. That resolution we accepted and we are trying to do what we can to give effect to it. Then another about the starting of cosmopolitan hostels. As regards Ernakulam, I tried to put before the Members of this House the practical difficulties in the whole-sale conversion of all the existing hostels into cosmopolitan ones, and I gave the assurance last time when we were here that, at the beginning of the new year when new admissions were expected, a necessity might arise for a new house and we would try to run a hostel on cosmopolitan lines in conformity with the assurance thatwas given in this House. I wrote to the Principal early this year—educational year.He notified to all classes and said that he was prepared to run a hostel on cosmopolitan lines if there were students coming forward. But I regret very much to say.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I may say that the notification came too late,....

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I would be a little more charitable with regard to that.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—And I came to know that the notice was issued much after the time.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I am constrained to be more charitable. This morning I met the Principal. I got the official communication three weeks ago. I asked him about it and he detailed the circumstances and told me of his personal regret also. The scheme did not materialise.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—When was the notice actually put up?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.— I do not know exactly. This morning I discussed the whole thing and I do not think that the version put forward by some Members of this House can be accepted as correct.

And then there was the question of the Text-Book Committee. Members said that it would be very much better if representation was given to this House on the Text-Book Committee, so that the Members of this House might be conversant with what was going on in the Text-Book-Committee. There also we accepted the resolution with the result that two Members of this House are sitting as members of that Committee. Then this House wanted to go into the question of the constitution of the Text-Book Committee and general arrangements regarding the selection of text-books, and so on. Well, we accepted that resolution and we have appointed two Members of this House who are now sitting as members of the sub committee. But they have not finished their investigations yet.

And then about the introduction of Hindi. Of course, I explained to the House that, owing to practical difficulties, it was not possible for us to accept that resolution in its entirety. To make it compulsory in schools, I tried to explain, was attended with practical difficulties, and then we agreed to accept it on the optional basis, and straight-away we have done it, as you will see from the budget, where we have provided for the appointment of Hindi teachers in select areas. Why we prefer to work on the optional basis, the difficulty in making it compulsory, is this:—We shall require a large number of teachers and that means you will have to import an army of teachers from outside. That, I do not think, would be to the advantage of our country. And so, we have to work on the optional basis, and then, when an adequate number of teachers is forthcoming, we can employ them as teachers in smaller schools in important centres. It is our intention to introduce it immediately in four centres, and we are going to appoint Pandits, so that later on it will be possible for us to extend the study of Hindi and if necessary to make it compulsory in the State. Then there is the resolution that New-Moon days should be made complete holidays. And then about the introduction of house-hold arts, and so on.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—The list is almost exhausted.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—And as I said, my Department has received a large share of attention from the opposite side, and there is a great deal that I have got to say in explanation of points raised in the course of the discussion. For instance, there was one matter that was referred to more than once. That was about the difficulty experienced by our students in getting admission into the Madras Technical Colleges like the Engineering College and the Medical College.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Agricultural College also.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That is true. Mention was made of this College only this morning.

The Member for Chalakkudi this morning told us that he had information that certain Indian States have seats reserved for them in the Madras Engineering and Medical Colleges. Some weeks ago, I was in Madras and I made it a point of seeing the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, and I told him that our students were experiencing a certain amount of difficulty in securing admission to the Engineering College and asked if he could not come to our help by having a certain number of seats reserved for our students. I asked him whether it was true what I heard that seats had been reserved for some other Indian States. He told me that there was an attempt by the Travancore Government but that Madras did not agree to it. Regarding the reservation of seats in the Engineering College, the position is this:—They have only accommodation for 60 students in the Engineering class. Now, if they reserve two for Cochin, they would be bound to reserve perhaps 6 for Travancore, 12 for Hyderabad, and then there are Pudukkotta, Sandur and Banganappalle. All these States have equal claims upon Madras. And then I said 'all these years our students have been going to your Colleges, and they have established a sort of claim in that way.' He agreed and told me that he would try to give due consideration to applicants from Cochin. I thought that this year no one was admitted.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—One student was admitted.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I know that in previous years students have been admitted every year but this year I was told that no Cochin student had been admitted. When I came back I found that there was one first class Mathematics graduate who, had got admission. He was the only one. Of course we feel the difficulty more for this reason. In olden days only a few of our students used to go to Madras for Engineering. Now with the increase in the number of our B. A.s, and so on, more are going. I do not think that what the Member

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for Chalakkudi said this morning could be quite accurate that simply because an applicant was a Cochinite he was shut out.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In the Agricultural College they charge Rs. 1,200 for a State school boy as school fees.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We approached the Madras authorities on the question. Agricultural education is very expensive. If you are prepared to contribute to the College or if you are prepared to pay adequate fees, then only our students can get admission. Now of course, they have to pay something like 1,200 rupees for tuition alone.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Boarding and other expenses excluded.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Our graduates are now going to Poona. Poona College is an All-India-Institution. About 7 or 8 of our Chemistry graduates have already been trained in the Poona College.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—College of Agriculture? There too the charge is high.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is not as high as in Coimbatore. It is an All-India Institution. They have some regard for Cochinites. They have been admitting our students all these years, and generally our students have been topping the list in Poona. So I suppose a certain amount of partiality is being shown to our students in the matter of admission. That is a real consolation.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Madras Government take the Poona graduates in the service? Trained men from Coimbatore will be given preference by the Government.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Taught in the Agricultural College at Coimbatore?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—At least they will have that consolation,

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The real solution would not be that. Even if we send our men to Coimbatore or Poona, they do not get that kind of practical instruction which is really suited to the conditions of our country. I have said that the conditions there are very different from what they are in Malabar. The real solution that we have in view is to open an Agricultural College when we shift our College to Anappara, (*hear, hear*) and one of the reasons why we shift the College to Anappara is that it is only a mile and half from the Central Farm; and as in Edinburgh and other European Universities the scientific part of the instruction could be given to the students in the College classes and the agricultural students could go or practical work to the Central Farm. And we can just suit

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our instruction to the real needs of our country. That will be possible when once we have an institution of our own to impart agricultural instruction. We talk of industrial development for the economic salvation of our country. But our mainstay is really agriculture (*hear, hear*), and if we can take real, practical and improved methods to the homes of our cultivators, we shall revolutionise the economic conditions of our country more than by any other means.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I think our finance will not stand in the way. Now our agricultural experts are sent to check Panchayat works at the request of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats.

Deputy President.—That is to be separated now.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is due merely to an accidental circumstance.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Has it not been separated?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—As I said before, the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, has promised to give due consideration to the students going from Cochin. I suggested the reservation of seats and he told me that the Travancore Government had approached them on this question but they could not comply with the request. And regarding technical instruction there is yet another solution. Last year the Director of the Tata Institute of Bangalore approached our Government for a donation. That institute has reserved seats for other Governments. It provides training in higher scientific research, in electrical engineering, and so on, and several of our men go there. So, I have recommended to Government that a decent donation might be given to the Tata Institute so that a certain number of seats might be reserved for Cochinites (*hear, hear*).

And then Pandit Malaviya visited our State a few weeks ago, and he also approached the Durbar for a donation to the Hindu University at Benares. So far as electrical engineering is concerned, the Benares Hindu University is the very best in India. Several Provincial Governments are sending their candidates for training to that University. Our Government contemplates paying a substantial donation to the Hindu University on the distinct understanding that some seats would be reserved for us.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—This is most encouraging.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Government have not passed final orders.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Some of you might know that two or three of my nephews are in the Medical College there.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I do not think there is any real difficulty regarding medicine.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—Have a Law College here.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Are you serious about it? I have addressed the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University on the subject. And I had an informal talk with him on the subject. The idea was that, in case we wanted a Law College, it must be on the lines of the Trivandrum Law College. As it is at present, Trivandrum is managed by part-time Professors. In the course of my discussion with the Vice-Chancellor recently, he told me that certain changes were proposed to be introduced in the Trivandrum College soon. But the report of the University Commission has not been out. So, in case the Trivandrum Law College has to change its working hours, then of course the University may not allow this system for our State. Then it would be beyond our scope.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What about free elementary education?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—This subject has been explained in this House more than once. About compulsory education I think I made the attitude of the Government pretty clear. We do not say that compulsory elementary education is not a thing that we should aspire to. All advanced countries have adopted compulsory education. But it will take some time before we are able to do it. The question now is—what is the best course to be adopted under the existing conditions of our country? We have only limited resources. Funds that we can place at the disposal of this Department for the purpose of elementary education are limited. So the question is, what is the best way in which you can utilise the limited funds at your disposal. Our object is to spread elementary education as wide as possible. Now, with the limited funds at our disposal can we achieve compulsion? Adopting compulsion is surely outside practical politics. I was reading the other day a statement made by the Chief Minister of the Government of Madras that, if Madras should have compulsory education, it would cost about 9½ crores of rupees. What they are doing now is to give the option to local bodies, such as Municipalities and District Boards. So that, it is optional compulsion or compulsory option, whatever you may call it; and whichever locality is prepared to bear the burden of a special cess can make it compulsory. So, Hon'ble Members will see that, for the Madras Presidency, it may amount to 9 or 10 crores of rupees or the bulk of the entire revenues of the Presidency, so that to adopt it in the immediate future is out of the question. It will mean increase of expenditure to that extent here because we have already a larger dis-

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semination of Malayalam education. Even then, it would be much beyond the scope of our resources as they stand now. Which is the best way in which we can utilise the amount at our disposal? Besides, the poor children who are brought to school at 10 o'clock will have to be fed before they leave school. We are in duty bound to feed them. And then you will need an elaborate machinery to enforce compulsion and to bring to book those that evade the law. So that it cannot be done all of a sudden. With our limited resources everything that is possible is being done, and we are trying to extend education as far as possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know from the Director of Public Instruction what the total cost of compulsory education will be?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Including the feeding of poor children I would put it at something like 20 lakhs of rupees for mass education. When I say mass education, I mean of children below twelve.

You want classes, rooms,.....

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I do not want classes. Evening classes can be held in the schools themselves. You have got schools in almost every village.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—After having been absent for the last Budget Session, I feel glad to be here again to join the important deliberations of our Council, and what is more, in listening to and benefiting by the criticisms of my colleagues under this roof. There is nothing which I like more than hearing useful and intelligent attacks on the works of the Department in my charge as I have found that it considerably helps me to keep me on edge and put in better efforts. I am fully alive to our short-comings, but I may assure you that at no time in the history of Cochin was a bunch of fellows working with greater self-sacrifice and devotion to the cause and welfare of the people of the land than the small group of officers which now constitute the Department generally known by the name of 'The P. W. D'.

As I look back on our performance for the year which is drawing to a close, I find it a year in which we worked the hardest, but produced less than our anticipations. I was handicapped with a budget, the proposals for which were not defined. Road works were proposed without fixing the alignments. For example, the Palayannur—Vaniampara Road was budgetted without any investigation at all.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In this connection may I know whether there is any diversion of the plan, from Palayannur to Chelakkara?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It was sanctioned from Palayannur to Elanad and not from Chelakkara.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—When the matter was looked into, it was found that the Chelakkara—Elanad alignment was a better proposition in every way.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In what respect, please?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was not meant as a road connection between Palayannur and Vaniampara. It was a road meant to open up Elanad which is at present inaccessible.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That changed road also goes through Elanad.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Connection between Elanad and Chelakkara was more desirable.

Petitions then from Palayannur poured in against this route. They had to be examined and decisions made.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There was also a deputation to the Diwan that it should not be diverted.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As I told you, now the main object of this road was to open up the inaccessible place of Elanad; and Chelakkara was found to be the most natural outlet for Elanad because it links it with Railway communications, at Mullurkarai.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The other is Lakkidi.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—But there you have to cross a stream.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—But there is a ferry.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is no ferry, at all times. Only during the monsoons. Unless there is a bridge across Bharathapuzha, Lakkidi can never be a proper outlet for Elanad. There is no bridge across the Bharathapuzha, and how will Elanad products go down to the Railway?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is there a bridge at Alwaye, Sir, for people to come over to Ernakulam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Well, in that case there is not much traffic in goods. There is also the Alwaye Railway Station at the other end and so there is Railway communication. But in the case of Lakkidi, for goods traffic, it is impossible to cross through Bharathapuzha during floods while it can come from Chelakkara to Mullurkarai. I do not know whether the Member has understood me.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—You say it is for commercial purposes.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Exactly.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—Before you are trying to divert the road, have you had any observation, or any report from any officer, or have you collected any statistics ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. I collected statistics and I found that Chelakkara was the natural outlet. But how much traffic there will be from Elanad to Mullurkarai, that is, of course, a thing we will have to see. I collected statistics and I found that Chelakkara was a better outlet for Elanad than Palayannur. In connecting Elanad and Palayannur I do not find any salient point at all and I do not know how one will prefer Palayannur to Chelakkara.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I too don't know.

Deputy President.—He says Chelakkara is better.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Of course his words are of much value. But we were anxious to know why this diversion was made. It is the duty of the Government to make us understand at least the reasons for which the diversion was ordered.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I may explain that Chelakkara was a more natural outlet than Palayannur for Elanad products. Chelakkara has got a bigger market and Elanad people can come to the Railway Station much easier if it is through Chelakkara. These are the two main points.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Paddy is the chief product in Chelakkara, and that can be taken to Trichur by Vaniampara.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The connection between Elanad and Vaniampara cannot be done for some time because it goes through British land and we do not know when that line can be opened up. We shall take early opportunity to move the British Government to permit that road to be opened to Vaniampara. We constructed the Valanthavalam Bridge many years ago and still it cannot be used. Now let me continue.

Fresh surveys had to be conducted and estimates prepared. The country was very rugged and work difficult. All these took time. But it was possible to fix our alignment, to prepare estin ates, land plan and schedule for the work, thanks to the efforts of my staff. They are now sent up to the Revenue Department for the necessary proceedings.

Similar is the case with the Irrigation allotment of a lakh of rupees. In this case, even the name of the work was not specified. There was a scheme for the Karuvannur flood canal. This was investigated and estimates prepared.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Has the Government any clear conception about the floods and how such water has to be discharged ?

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Deputy President.—There is no time now for all that explanation.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I shall ask that when the subject comes.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I very well knew that severe remarks will be made by the Members of this Council if that work is not taken up. But I was not satisfied with the engineering aspects of this scheme. This work was pressed to the notice of the Government on many occasions by the Member for the Landlords, and notably by my friend, Mr. Nunez, who represented the Anglo-Indian Constituency of the last Council. The work was intended to relieve flood distress in the villages of Parappukkara, Muriyad and adjacent areas. The works at Enamakkal, which I had the rare privilege of doing, have substantially reduced the floods in Trichur Lake and enhanced the discharging capacity of the Karuvannur river. The people have not appreciated the full significance of these works and they clamour for the canal still. But I have taken reliable statistics of the condition of the crops affected by the floods after the Enamakkal works were taken up. I found that for the last four years the *Viruppu* crops of those areas have never suffered from floods. Even the last floods which in magnitude is not one to be despised has not affected the crops. The problem of floods in those areas seems to have been solved. Then what is the necessity for the work? Would you want me to spend two lakhs of rupees to construct a canal meant to relieve distress to crops where no distress exists? As I said before, the Parappukara people reaped splendid *Viruppu* harvests for the last four years. And does this canal, costing two lakhs of rupees, superfluous for all ordinary floods, insufficient for abnormal floods, dangerous to the Urakam and Cherpu lands, deserve to be executed? If you wish, I shall get it done, but I have to wash my hands from the responsibility of doing it. We shall, however, keep our minds open, and watch for some more years to see if the floods do affect the lands. The experience of the past five years shows that there is no necessity for this costly canal which, at its best, will only be useful for a week in a year at the most.

Instead of this one, I hastened to start up the Muriyad-Kakkathuruthy canal, one which will be just as useful as the one mentioned already in point of flood discharge but which also possesses the advantage of affording a waterway to the town of Irinjalakkuda, the Head Quarters of the Mukundapuram Taluk.

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This canal will link Irinjalakkuda with the Cochin Harbour by water. I, therefore, look to you to approve of the wisdom of my decision instead of blindly criticising me without a correct knowledge of facts. Let the undisputed importance of the subject of irrigation not make us irrigation-mad. Let us be irrigation-sane. I have to thank the Member for Cheruthuruthi for condemning Cochin roads. But I may say that our roads are very good and better than the adjoining foreign roads. Once I listened to a friend of mine, an ardent motorist and a foreigner in these parts, speaking in rather strong terms that our attention to roads was inadequate and that in one of his trips from Trichur to Ernakulam he found that there was distinct difference for the better when riding on Travancore portion. I felt crest-fallen, for I had a lot of respect for his judgment of roads. It was only after I endured disgrace for half an hour that I decided to improve matters if I can and asked whether he remembered where exactly he found the road condition bad. He told me "coming from Trichur as soon as you pass the toll gate at Adur!" Well, I shall have opportunity of speaking on Public Works later on. But let me just touch on what I think are the right lines to work to bring about a better economic condition in Cochin. Agriculture is our mainstay, and agriculture is one of the greatest industries in the world. The economic depression of the agriculturists is chiefly due to ignorance. So long as owners of lands and jenmies do not take direct interest in cultivation, the condition will not improve. The tenants are living a hand-to-mouth existence. They have not the capital to invest on implements necessary for cultivation on modern lines. The methods in cultivation now in vogue in Cochin are very old and inefficient. Ploughing as done by our farmers is no more than simply scratching the surface where it ought to be deep furrowing. The cattle they use for farm work are too poor in breed. It is the result of neglect of ages. If you want prosperity, all these conditions should go. Manual labour should be replaced by machinery. Machines are available in plenty and at cheap cost. The other nations are doing it. Let man not work as a beast; let him be the director of labour. Let the machine work. But you may classify all these as tall talk. But I see in it wonderful opportunities. It will reduce the expenditure for cultivation, increase the yield of the land and make one live a more respectable life. It is for educated people like you to lead the way. Work with the aim of replacing animal labour by machines as far as possible, and you will soon find well on the way for prosperity. Without it any amount of irrigation, any amount of drainage canals, is not going to alter conditions one little bit. Believe me.

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The insufficient attention paid to dry cultivation by the land-lords is astounding. For example, how many organised pepper plantations are there in our State? Can any one count half-a-dozen? Potential wealth there is in abundance, if people will only open their eyes and take it.

The road to Nelliampathies is on the way to completion. How many Cochinites have interested themselves in planting tea? Ignorance and mutual conflicts among people are the causes for this deplorable state of affairs. You can't very well blame the Government. They give you facilities for good education, open up roads where you want them and do everything which a Government is expected to do. The more they do, in fact the less self-reliant the people appear to grow. The money which the Government spends annually on works of public utility is, I consider, almost a waste. What use is made of them? Is the average Cochinite a producer? What is he? How many of us can justify our existence? What productive work do we do?

In America, only the richest could afford to live in that state of idleness and self-indulgence in which we find ourselves. Not being a producer, not being a unit which is of real intrinsic use, it is not fair to ask the Government to give all the comforts, easy riding roads, parks, increased communication, which toilers and producers of other countries have a right to enjoy. It is for the people to showinitiative, industry and intelligence. The Government can only help them, give them educational facilities, afford protection and do works calculated to help them in their avocations. It is for the people to see that they have profitable avocations. Cheap power and plenty of it is absolutely necessary. The falls at Perinjukuthu on the Chalakkudi river are proposed to be harnessed. A small provision is made in the budget for 1105 in which year it is hoped to start the works and award contracts if possible. You may rest assured that we shall do our very best to push on with the scheme. There is a fall of 550 feet and the river even unaugmented by storage can continually produce 2,000 horse power. Power can then be brought to Ernakulam and Trichur and also distributed on the way. Cheap power can be made available for the farmer at his door for pumping and other purposes. With these visions realised I look forward to see the condition of the people in Cochin considerably improved. To a people of this intelligence and culture who have admittedly passed the infant stage in their growth, I am sure I need not dwell long on the importance of cheap power for the promotion of the material prosperity of a nation.

With increased civilisation comes a craving for beautifying things around us. We should all rebel against ugliness and

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dirt and darkness and try to beautify our towns and cultivate civic pride. In Ernakulam it is proposed to take the opportunity of the much-looked-for visit of His Excellency the Viceroy to improve a portion of the foreshore. I hope and trust that this small bit of example in Ernakulam will pull the trigger of your dormant cravings for beauty and demand for more of it.

The question of prohibition is a favourite one in this Council. I have been in a place where it is enforced. In New York hundreds of saloons were closed down by Government order. Thousand "speak cases" sprung up. Government distilleries were abolished. Ten times that number of illicit distillation were established all manufacturing poison. A crime wave is sweeping the whole country. There is a strong agitation for an amendment to permit the use of at least light wine and beer. Literature in favour of prohibition is circulated by bootleggers to protect their vested rights and high gains. America, with its immense resources, has failed to enforce the law. Has Cochin a chance? The Volsted Act passed in America when all their best men were fighting in the fields of France is tottering. It was the result of a few faddists. I know from personal experience that I have seen more drunkenness in America than I did in France! That great American who drafted the Jefferom Constitution and late confirmed it had said cheap drink will make no nation a drunken one. He abolished the high customs for importing wine which prevailed in his time. He favoured the free importing of wine from France. Therefore, I say, Sir, that people who go preaching about prohibition should pause and consider before they try to bring the world under their wings and patronise it.

The Harbour which we are helping to develop is progressing satisfactorily. It has been found possible to keep the outer bar open during the last monsoons. Ships can come into the sheltered waters at all parts of the year. Swinging berths for the mooring of ships are now being dredged and there will be accommodation for five steamers in the Harbour at any time.

Harbour, as you know, is only a rail bead. Railway developments connecting it with the hinterland are very nearing and in fact strictly speaking should precede Harbour developments. There are proposals for the conversion of the Shoranur-Cochin Railway. This is likely to materialise. Nothing has been settled regarding Trichur—Kollengode—Pollachi line. The matter is under consideration. Proposals for connecting up Mysore and Cochin *via* Nilambur and Manumthody have also been proposed. The date of materialisation of these projects cannot be foretold with any degree of accuracy.

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The whirling of time has brought us round to another Budget Session, an occasion during which, as never before, we have heard the rushing of many waters and the rumblings of a distant volcano. I rise not to add to the bustle and turmoil of the day but to offer a few observations in a milder strain as a variation in the note of the criticisms that went before. I shall endeavour to deal just with a few flotsam I have caught from the rushing stream

There has been a large volume of what appears to be somewhat exaggerated grievances, bolstered up as a plank for ventilating on the inadequacy of the Council constitution.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is your opinion.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I will prove it.

The dominant note of the non-official utterances has been one of unqualified pessimism on the progress of Government. I am not a pessimist by nature, and I do believe there is nothing so altogether bad under the Sun as to be devoid of some element of good in it. Viewing from that standpoint, after hearing all the speeches of the past day and a half, I was wondering whether the Government of Cochin was altogether barren of any good, whether there was no Department of Government activities or any endeavour on the part of Government which was deserving of a word of encouragement or entitled to a legitimate meed of praise. Begging pardon for any egotism that may be lurking in my doing so, may I read to you the observation of one, entitled by position and personal distinction to speak on matters medical? Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, Colonel Megaw who visited the General Hospital a few weeks ago made the following remarks;—

"It is a great pleasure to visit a hospital like this. The buildings and equipments are excellent, almost luxurious. The hospital must be a source of pride to His Highness the Maharaja and Dr. Verghese. When a new out-patient department and a Clinical Laboratory have been instituted, it will be exceedingly difficult for the most captious critic to find something to find fault with."

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did he pay a surprise visit?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. I crave your courtesy not to be interrupted.

Deputy President.—Don't interrupt him.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sir, the eyes, that cannot see any element of good in any one of the multitudinous activities of Government, are, I am afraid, subject to what is called chromatic aberration—a disorder which gives a distorted colouring to every object viewed at.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—It cuts both ways.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese. —Scanning the speeches I have heard, I fail to discover any pointed statement of gross administrative blunder committed by Government, or any national calamity which Government has failed to avert. Last year during the Budget Session, we met here under the shadow of an epidemic of plague which threatened the two towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri,....

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There was only the shadow. You converted it into a plague.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—There never was a plague. The plague was in the Medical Department.

Deputy President.—Unless you keep quiet, it is not possible to go on.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Which was brought under control amidst insuperable difficulties and opposition from persons, some of whom are making to-day loud demands for political advancement. To-day we are meeting in the wake of the recent floods, a calamity which threatened to be disastrous. The prompt and timely measures adopted by Government have been gratefully acknowledged by the people, and even this forenoon I imagined the Government would be taken to task for the floods and for the unreasonable and heavy rainfall. But I must acknowledge with thanks the tribute of praise given to the Government by the Member for Chalakkudi. Sir, the budget speeches, which practically left the budget severely well alone, were in the main concentrated expressions of dissatisfaction with the action or attitude of Government in regard to restorations of cuts passed by the Council. I think Government would declare that any idea of flouting the Council, as was emphasised in some of the speeches, was and is positively foreign to the aims and objects of Government and any sentiment of hostility to this institution and, as was emphasised in some of the speeches, is absolutely remote. Every recommendation which was not accepted was so done after mature and due deliberation from the Government view point of unsuitability under existing circumstances.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is it the Government reply or your own reply?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I am replying now.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Are we to take it as the Government reply?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Words are there for what they mean. You may listen to what I say and take exactly what it means. But let it be understood that

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no deliberate act of withstanding recommendations for the sake of withstanding was ever done or imagined. In regard to this subject I believe there is considerable exaggeration as regards restoration of cuts or refusing passed resolutions. A scrutiny would show that they were not many. Attention has been drawn to a speech of the Diwan of Travancore that not a cut has been restored. There the constitution of the Council is such that Government could easily arrange that no inconvenient cut is made.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—How is it possible?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I will tell you if you will listen with patience. There they have 22 Government and nominated Members against 28. Here we have a more liberal non-official majority, 30 against 15 or more correctly 33 against 12, and, if you are so willed, Government could be defeated at every step.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Are you sorry for it?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Not a bit.

Sir, it is evident that the basic irritation is elsewhere. The constitution of the Council as at present constituted is regarded as "cramped, cribbed and confined." Reluctance to reform, no response to (a) demand for constitutional advancement, (b) demand for bifurcation of judicial and legislative functions, (c) separation of the services from the Legislature are some of the items enumerated for dissatisfaction. To these I can only refer to a quotation made by, I believe, the Jenmi Member "changes are bound to occur, sooner or later". A little patience and a little striving to deserve more are all that is required. But on the other hand, there is no patience, but like Oliver Twist, always asking for more before the morsel given has gone down. Aviation came into the world only in the 20th century. In the meantime people learned to walk on *terra-firma* and walk steadily. That brings me to the point of serious umbrage evinced in the Council for a wording of a Government order that this Council is in its infancy. No stretch of imagination gives me a clue to the supposed impropriety of that figure of speech. In the name of English! it is past comprehension how it could be construed to mean that the Members are infants especially when there is a Member of 3 score years and ten as they say.

Attention has been invited so eloquently by the Member for Pazhayannur to a regrettable feature in the Council that there is a lack of recognition of the fact that we are partners in the game and that we have a common goal. It would be well if this valuable advice is recognised and acted upon for the well-being of our corporate existence.

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Now I shall pass on to matters connected with my Department.

Deputy President.—No time. I think the Secretary will have to say something.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—All right.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, with your permission and the permission of the House, may I, at the very outset, offer my hearty thanks for the kind sentiments expressed on my behalf by several Members, both yesterday and to-day? Sir, only a stranger and a new-comer like myself could really appreciate how much these kind regards could act as a source of inspiration and a source of self-confidence so far as I am concerned. Secondly, Sir, may I also offer my hearty thanks of gratitude for the very valuable criticisms that we have been hearing from the Members on the other side? On this occasion, I would certainly like to add for my part too that the Government are in no way unwilling or in any way inclined to disregard the wishes of this Council. Of course, this, for a fact, cannot go unchallenged. But, in the face of the explanations that were offered by my predecessors who spoke this afternoon, I hope that much at least of the misconception and the misunderstanding that might have existed would have disappeared, and I hope that very soon what else is left will soon be completely obliterated. We do recognise that some delay might have occurred in some quarters. But to err is only human, and I can assure this House on behalf of the Heads of the Departments and also on the part of the Secretariat that again and again we are trying to push on the work of the Council, and, in future, less and less delay there will be in handling these questions, that arise here. Only to give a concrete instance—not at all to score a point of success—I wish to submit here that in the last Meenam Session we were able to answer, I believe, 296 and odd questions, a thing which was a record then, and I hope that in this Session we shall not be, in any way, behind. Of course, as I told you before, it is not stated to score a point of success, but only to give a concrete instance.

Well, then, passing on from these general charges, I think I shall just touch on two or three main charges, specific charges that were mainly dwelt upon by the non-official colleagues on the other side. The first thing related to the charge that our budget is miserly, and our budget is a hoarding budget and that our policy is a policy of again and again hoarding. Well, Sir, I cannot understand really how, in the face of the explanations that were offered by my friend on the left side, how in the face

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of the facts that are provided on page 14 of the printed speech of the Finance Member, Hon'ble Members could take it that there is such a large surplus as is imagined. After providing for the necessary working expenses and also for providing for the Venduruthy Reclamations, as the Revenue Member has pointedly pointed out by actual working of the figures, there is hardly a sufficient surplus worth mentioning at all. Secondly, Sir, more or less alike this was the question of industrial teaching and industrial development. This too was touched upon by a good number of Members of this House. We are being taken to task that our industrial education is not perfect, to judge from the results, and our industrial schools are only apologies for true ones. Here, Sir, I should submit that this question is rather linked on to a far wider one. It is the western countries that are said to be examples of industrial efficiency, and truly they are so too. But the people here forget one substantial difference that exists between those countries and here. The mass industrial training there does not precede the development of industries themselves. There the industry is pre-existent and then came the mass industrial training, and as soon as the students went out, they could be absorbed in doing most of the industries. Here, in the absence of this pre-existent system of industrial development, how can we hope that the maximum beneficial effects would be obtained from any amount of industrial coaching? And I know, and I can ask, are better results achieved in Mysore or even any other part of the most advanced countries in India?

Again, linked on to this was the further question of unemployment. There most of the Members who spoke rather admitted that this is a question, a problem, not only affecting this State, but rather disfiguring the whole of India, and perhaps the most advanced nations of the west. Well, this very admission robs it of much of its force. Still, I am not claiming that the Government are keeping quiet or are not trying to tackle the situation as well as they could and as they should. With the starting of vocational education classes, with the development of Harbour and such kindred subjects, we do hope sincerely, and we are trying our best to tackle it as efficiently as we, under the present circumstances, can. All that I submit is that, because these results are not found out here, it should not be said that the Government are not taking steps to tackle the question.

One word more, Sir, and that is with regard to care of the villages. As was pointed out by two of the non-official Members yesterday afternoon and very clearly too they tried to show, that

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the Government are not bestowing proper attention nor giving sufficient funds, funds being available, for the needs of the masses in the villages. Well, Sir, however deficient, and in some cases they may be a little bit deficient, the Panchayats and Co-operative Societies may be, do not the increase, the perceptible increase in their number and also in the number of night village schools, in the supporting of the Colonies of the Depressed Classes, and in the spreading of the Allopathic Dispensaries and indigenous Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas, do not all these facts at least make a very big case to show whether the effects are so bad as you say? Of course, there may be an omission here and there may be an oversight there. Government do not say that they are perfect, that they have been always correct. Omissions and oversights there have been and there may be. We shall try our best to remedy them and overcome them at the earliest possible moment. All that I want to submit to this House is that it could never be said with fairness that the Government are not bestowing proper attention, are not granting sufficient funds, funds being available, to meet the needs of the villagers. And if it is not this concern of the well-being of the people, what else could it be that has induced the Government and is inducing the Government of our Maharaja to alleviate and solve the needs of different localities, to start so many dispensaries and schools, and if there is a proper scheme of irrigation, especially irrigation by lift pumps for which there is provision in the budget of 1104 itself? Therefore, I submit once more that the charge, that we are not proceeding on true and just lines or progressing onward, through the lines of the improved systems of a model developing State, could not be levelled against the present administration, and if that could not be levelled, far less than that is the other charge that we are not respecting the wishes of the House. Therefore, Sir, I hope our Hon'ble colleagues on that side would not be under any erroneous misconception as to the attitude of the Government and would really continue their efforts from to-morrow forwards for giving their most valuable advice and guidance.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, I am not sure whether I am required to say much now at the finishing stage of the General Debate on the budget. The speeches have been confined mainly to general principles and policies of administration and not so much to finance. I must, however, express my thanks to the Hon'ble Members of this House who have in their remarks confined themselves more to the defects of the system on which the budget is worked.

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I am far from suggesting that our system is perfect, but I would request the Hon'ble Members to remember the limitations under which we work. Our sources of revenue are very limited and circumscribed, and I am afraid it would not be practical politics to imitate the financial experiments made in other countries where the sources of revenue are extremely elastic. I may go even to the extent of saying that we are not the only sinners in this respect. I doubt whether there is any Native State which goes beyond the bounds that we do. That, I suppose, is sufficient answer to the stereotyped nature of the budget which is its alleged fault.

I would, however, refer to one point in particular, namely, the hoarding up of surplus, which has been the subject—matter of a good deal of criticism. I have already made our position clear in my speech and have not got much to add now. We have to finance two big schemes, the Harbour and the Railway. Do the House want the Government to go in for a loan for both these? Will it be possible to raise a loan of nearly a crore of rupees? It goes without saying that even to raise money in the market or otherwise our financial position has to be sound. Viewed in any aspect I regret I could not see eye to eye with those Hon'ble Members who have taken exception to the accumulation of surplus.

I do not consider it necessary at present to refer to any of the other subjects dealt with in the course of the discussion, most of which have been adverted to by the Departmental Heads who preceded me.

The House rose for the day at 5—5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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